

Israeli planes kill 100 civilians, says Lebanon

Israel sent waves of warplanes to bomb targets in southern Lebanon yesterday. At least 100 civilians died in the raids which levelled two villages. Israel said the air assault—against terrorist targets only—was a reprisal for rocket attacks on a coastal town.

Revenge raids after rocket attacks

From Marjane Howe
Beirut, Nov 9

Israeli warplanes wined out two villages, killing at least 100 civilians, during massive bombing raids on Lebanon yesterday.

The air raids also hit three Palestinian refugee camps and the port city of Tyre, killing many civilians and causing widespread damage. Only three Palestinian commandos were killed in the operation, according to official Palestinian sources.

Mr Fawad Butros, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, in a national television address, strongly deplored the Israeli "aggression" and said that Lebanon was doing everything possible to deal with the situation.

President Elias Sarkis met Mr Richard Parker, the United States Ambassador, apparently in an attempt to enlist American help to reinvigorate the ceasefire in southern Lebanon.

United States embassies in Beirut, Damascus and Tel Aviv have been busy since Sunday arranging the ceasefire, which went into effect on September 25 in the Israeli-Lebanese border area and was broken by an artillery duel last weekend between Israeli-backed Lebanese Christians and Palestinian Lebanese leftist forces.

Western diplomatic sources here generally believed the Israeli air raids were deliberate overreaction to two Palestinian rocket attacks on the Israeli town of Nahariya, in which three Israelis were killed.

However, Lebanese ruling circles considered that the Israeli action was aimed at undermining efforts of President Sarkis and President Assad of Syria and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation to reach a settlement on the Palestinian presence in the Israeli border area.

The Israeli bombers carried out repeated raids against civilian targets in the area around Tyre between 8 and 10 am, according to the Lebanese national news agency.

The village of Azziyah and a neighbouring hamlet five miles north of the Israeli border were completely razed, according to "official" sources. Forty-five bodies have been recovered, all of them Lebanese, and it was believed there were more in the ruins.

Lebanese officials said that 13 civilians were killed in Tyre and two more in Nabatieh. The Palestinian news agency announced that a squadron of Israeli Phantoms, based at the Israeli air base at Ramat Gan, had bombed the Palestinian refugee camps of Borj al-Shamali, Rasbiyeh and al-Bass in the Tyre area. Witnesses said that at least 30 bodies were removed from the rubble in Borj al-Shamali and it was believed there were just as many dead in the al-Bass camp.

Most of the victims of the bombing have been identified as Lebanese Shia Muslims, who have not been involved generally in the fighting in the south.

The Palestinian reaction to the attack was immediate. In- dependent reports from the south said they began moving reinforcements and additional arms into the area around Tyre.

—New York Times News Service

Mr. Michael Barwick, one of the Yorkshire leaders and secretary of the national shop stewards' committee, said: "If the strike call is accepted and carried out the whole country will be plunged into darkness."

The likelihood of that, even if tomorrow's meeting supports the strike call, is extremely remote.

Whip resigns, page 3
Industrial alert, page 19

General Gur said unequivocally that the Syrians in Lebanon had the power to prevent such attacks, even though their non-interference could not move south of the Litani River because of Israeli objections.

The Israeli bombing target this morning was a six-mile wide coastal belt between Rachidiye, 10 miles north of the border, and Rasbiyeh, five miles from the border. General Gur estimated there were hundreds of terrorists but no civilians, Lebanese or Syrian military personnel in the area. Most of the 3,000 to 4,000 terrorists in southern Lebanon were in refugee camps and these were not attacked, he said.

Power men in disarray over what to do next

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The power workers' unofficial action was in disarray last night as a call went out from the militant Yorkshire area for a national strike in a last effort to prevent the dispute from crumbling.

The severest blow to the leaders of the action, centred on the big south Yorkshire stations that form the nucleus of Britain's power supply, came as the West Burton station in Nottinghamshire, Europe's biggest, voted to work normally.

The decision was humiliating for the dispute leaders since the all-out strike call was meant to be in support of two unnamed West Burton workers who were being "disciplined".

But the Central Electricity Generating Board said no one had been singled out at West Burton and, according to one source, it was generally assumed that the two men did not exist.

A decision on the next step rests with a meeting tomorrow of the national unofficial joint shop stewards committee which will be asked to vote on a Yorkshire resolution for a national stoppage. It has all the hallmarks of a desperate attempt to regenerate flagging support for an action that has met determined resistance from management and the four main unions in the industry.

But the stewards received two overwhelming votes of support for the action last night from Eggburrough and Drax stations in Yorkshire. Five hundred men at Scotland's largest power station, Longannet, voted to continue the strike they began on Monday.

They will meet today. Meanwhile six stations forced to close have been reopened by engineers and managers.

Two of the men's three conditions for a return to normal working have proved unacceptable. One, that their demands should be considered in forthcoming negotiations, is no obstacle. But the management will not accept their claim to be paid for the duration of the dispute (the Central Electricity Generating Board has paid payments from Thursday to men who were not working normally).

There seems no chance of the unions accepting the shop stewards' demand to be involved in future bargaining. The Yorkshire stewards, who have led the dispute, are divided on what to do. Their support remains strong locally, and that is where the big stations are centred, but most other power workers have continued to work as usual.

The Electricity Council is cautiously optimistic that the stewards, in isolation, will soon give up their fight.

Mr Michael Barwick, one of the Yorkshire leaders and secretary of the national shop stewards' committee, said: "If the strike call is accepted and carried out the whole country will be plunged into darkness."

The likelihood of that, even if tomorrow's meeting supports the strike call, is extremely remote.

Whip resigns, page 3
Industrial alert, page 19



The Lord Mayor's coach in heavy rain on a City street at 6.30 am yesterday. The six-horse team was rehearsing for Saturday's show.

Mr Rees holds out little hope of wages settlement with firemen

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Whitelaw, the Conservative deputy leader, pledged his party's support for any measures the Government might think necessary to protect the public.

For the Liberals, Mr Pargos said although withdrawal of labour by the firemen might literally mean death Mr Rees had no alternative but to stand firm.

The House must support him in this last-minute appeal to the firemen's better nature, Mr Pargos said.

It was later learnt that there might be a ministerial broadcast nearer the time of the strike, to give further guidance on how every man, woman and child could help to minimize the dangers. The Speaker refused an appeal for an emergency debate on the situation, but there were indications that that could be allowed if the situation worsened.

Although Mr Rees promised that everything possible would be done in the few remaining days to persuade the firemen

sequences of any national fire service strike were incalculable.

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Although Mr Rees promised that everything possible would be done in the few remaining days to persuade the firemen

to call off the strike he left the House in no doubt that there would be no settlement outside the limits of the Government's pay guidelines.

He said the dangers involved if the Government allowed a breach of its pay guidelines would be far greater than those of a firemen's strike. In that situation he had a responsibility to the community as a whole.

Guidance, the Home Secretary said, was being issued through government departments and local authorities. Where there were special areas of risk he had arranged for talks between local authority chief executives, police chiefs, chief fire officers and the local army commanders.

Mr Rees said he did not believe firemen would sit back and watch people die, that was not the fire service he had known for 15 years. But if that was the way it was going to be, he had to take every step to save life.

Gruesome job, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 8
Letters, page 15

Government in surplus last month by £63m

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Central government had a surplus of £63m in October, enabling it to repay some of its debt, because revenue was higher and spending lower than forecast at the time of the Budget.

The surplus would have been considerably larger had it not been for borrowing from central government by local authorities and a fall in the balance of some departments.

The latest figures mean that in the first seven months of this financial year central government has borrowed £1,951m, compared to £6,859m forecast at the time of the Budget in the spring. The figures for November and subsequent months are likely to be less favourable for the Government because there will, subject to agreement with the Inland Revenue, be heavy repayments of income tax to be met in November, followed by a lower level of receipts of income tax for the rest of the year.

None the less, the latest estimate of £7,500m for total Public Sector Borrowing does not seem to be on the low side on the basis of the latest figures.

The most important error in forecasting the borrowing need to have been on the revenue side. Total Consolidated Fund revenue during the first seven months of the financial year was 16 per cent higher than in the equivalent period in 1976-77, compared to a Budget estimate of only 12 per cent growth.

Both direct and indirect tax forecasts have proved too pessimistic. This is made more surprising by the fact that most

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Object near Saturn may be 10th planet

From John Noble Wilford
New York, Nov 9

Astronomers have discovered an object between Saturn and Uranus that is orbiting the Sun. They say it could represent a new class of asteroid or perhaps be the solar system's tenth and smallest planet.

The discovery was announced yesterday by Mr Charles Kowal, an astronomer at the Hale Observatories in Pasadena, California. He detected the object through the 48in Schmidt telescope on Mount Palomar. Other astronomers have subsequently confirmed the observation.

Mr Kowal said in a telephone interview that the object "really doesn't resemble anything else we have seen." The object is far beyond the usual region of asteroids, and its orbit and appearance seem unlike that of a comet.

It does not appear to come close enough to neighbouring planets to be an escaped moon. Because it was so small—100 to 400 miles in diameter, about one-tenth the size of Mercury, the smallest known planet—the object was temporarily being described as a "mini-planet".

Dr Brian Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, called the discovery "very unusual and certainly very exciting."

Depending on what the object turns out to be, Dr Marsden said, it could be the second major exciting discovery in the outer solar system this year. The other was finding that Uranus, like Saturn, is encircled by rings.

When the Uranian rings were first observed last March, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said that they were "the first major structures in the solar system to be found since the discovery of the planet Pluto in 1930."

Astronomers throughout the world have been alerted to make further observations of the mini-planet so that its probable orbit and other characteristics can be ascertained.

Mr Kowal, who is 37, has many astronomical discoveries to his credit: several comets, the thirteenth moon of Jupiter and another object that may be the fourteenth moon, and 80 supernovas, the brilliant explosions of dying stars.

On the nights of October 18 and 19 he was surveying the sky, and when he examined photographic plates made in those observations Mr Kowal made his discovery. Using a microscope to look for differences in photographs taken on consecutive nights, he detected a faint trail of light. This indicated that something was moving in relation to the stars in the distant background.—New York Times News Service.

Princess Anne's hospital named

Princess Anne's baby will be born in the private wing at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, Paddington, Buckingham Palace said last night.

The Queen's gynaecologist, Mr George Pinker, who will deliver the baby, is a consultant there. The Princess is not expected to enter hospital until she goes into labour.

Togo forewarned of mercenary plot

By Our Foreign Staff

The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Britain had warned Togo of a plot by mercenaries last month to assassinate President Eyadema. They are thought to have been led by Britons, but the Foreign Office would not confirm this.

Britain does not have a diplomatic mission in Lomé, the Togolese capital. The Foreign Office spokesman said that Britain had passed on to the President through diplomatic channels the information it had obtained last month.

He also said that the Foreign Office did not have any knowledge of whether mercenaries in Togo had been arrested. According to reports, a first wave of mercenaries planned to assassinate the President and this was to be followed by a second group who intended to maintain order for a few days while a coalition government was established.

A report from Herford yesterday said that there was a group of mercenaries that the Foreign Office had "upped off" to the Togolese Government. They claimed that a serving officer in the Special Air Services (SAS) had been part of their team until he withdrew from the operation two months ago.

They also said that the assassination attempt was to have been financed by a Canadian with extensive business interests in Togo, and they would have received £25,000 each if they had been successful.

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US-Soviet summit discussed

Moscow, Nov 9.—President Brezhnev and Mr Malcolm Trozin, the American Ambassador, today discussed plans for a Soviet-American summit before the end of the year, a reliable source said here.

American diplomats were unusually reserved regarding the meeting, refusing even to say how long it had lasted, but several diplomatic sources said that the date and place for a summit meeting between Mr Brezhnev and President Carter were the main topics.

Tass reported later that Mr Brezhnev had expressed satisfaction to Mr Trozin over recent progress in American-Soviet relations.

He also reaffirmed the Soviet desire for stable and constructive development of relations based on equality of rights, mutual advantage and non-interference in each other's affairs, the news agency said.

Sources said that the possible summit meeting was not incompatible with Mr Carter's postponement of a visit to Europe. It could be held at the end of this month or the beginning of December, they said, near the time of Mr Brezhnev's planned visit to Bonn.

They added that it was unlikely that a summit would be held on either American or Soviet territory.—Agence France-Press.

No exception to 12-month rule, TUC says

A decision by the TUC economic committee that there can be no exception to the 12-month rule has dealt a blow to the pay hopes of the miners and British Leyland workers. The committee reaffirmed its line in respect of Merchant Navy officers, who had sought to break the policy, but it is firmly expected to act as a yardstick for all other groups of workers.

Dearer bread plea

Mr Jackson Moore, general secretary of the United Road Transport Union, who has appealed to the Government to block increases of as much as 3p a loaf proposed by the main national bakers.

Carter appeal fails

The latest attempt by President Carter to win support among the public and in Congress for his energy programme has not had the impact intended. His television address differed from recent speeches only to the extent that he toned down criticism of the oil industry.

Rhodesia talks hint

There was speculation that a conference on Rhodesia might be held in Malta, after a hint by Mr Nkomo, the nationalist leader, Field-Marshal Lord Carrer, the British Resident Commissioner-designate, reports to Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, today on his talks with African leaders.

Democrat elected as New York mayor

Mr Edward Koch, a Democrat, was elected as New York's first bachelor mayor for 100 years. His election was one of a number of state and city elections in the United States that gave the Democrats more cause for satisfaction than the Republicans.

Britain angry over cod

British trawlers have been ordered to leave the Arctic fishing ground off Norway because EEC cod quotas are exhausted. The British fishermen's claim that they still have 2,500 tonnes in hand has been rejected by Norway, claiming that French vessels have already taken the remaining EEC entitlement.

Architects' fee scales

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, is to ask the Director General of Fair Trading to recommend changes in rules governing architects' and surveyors' fees. His intervention coincides with the publication of reports on such scales by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Government victory

The Government gained an easy victory by 299 votes to 272, a majority of 27, at the end of the five-day debate on its programme for the new session of Parliament outlined in the Queen's Speech.

Leader page, 17
Letters: On a firemen's strike, from Mr J. Davies; on an election agent's governors, from Dr Eric Midwinter and Mr William Shelton; on the Civil List increases, from Lady Ballantyne.
Leading articles: President Carter's encyclical on Fisheries; The Queen's civil list; Arts, page 11.
John Higgins talks to Placido Domingo; William Glynne on the British Arts; Ned Chatter on The Apple Cart (Phoenix Theatre); Jeremy Tredwell on The Funnest Man in the World (Theatre Royal, Stratford).
Books, page 9.
Paul Barker on Volume III of the Crossman Diaries; H. R. F. Keating reviews the autobiography of A. A. Milne; Miss Mary Hancock's obituary, page 15.
Football: Michael Smith signs three-year contract to manage Wales; Rugby Union: Kent reach semi-final of the Anglo-Wales Cup; All Blacks pick six new caps against France.
Features, pages 15, 16.
Nicholas Nickleby on the war-weary Rhineland; Second page: Fashion by Prudence Glynne.
Business News, pages 19-25.
Financial Editor: Accountants and the public interest; J. Sainsbury feeling the Tesco squeeze; General Accident a favourite candidate for takeover.
Stock markets: Equities fell back on industrial worries and the FT index closed 9.9 down to 352.3. Gilt-edged market: A progressive reduction of the working week from next autumn and continuing talks to find a permanent formula for regulating pay rates. The firemen want a 30 per cent rise.
Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, made clear to the Union on Tuesday that the Government

is not prepared to sanction any change to the immediate pay offer.

Mr Henry Coggins, chairman of the Merseyside committee of the FBU, said last night: "We feel very sorry for the troops who will be trying to do our job, because they are not equipped or trained to do it. But, while I cannot say there may not be a few hotbeds, the large majority of our members will observe the executive instruction not to interfere with them."

The National Association of Fire Officers has already warned Mr Rees that its 4,000 members, who hold the senior posts in fire stations, will not cross picket lines, or fight fires alongside troops.

But the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, which is pursuing its own pay negotiations, made clear last night that its members would be crossing picket lines, "commanding all the resources they could" to preserve life.

The six Ulster Unionists indicated that they would vote against the Government in the "quilloting" motion on the Scotland Bill which, if the Bills are not to be filibustered to death, is critical for the Government's success. At least, five other Northern Ireland MPs are expected to oppose with the proviso that "something dramatic" in granting Ulster some form of devolution might change their minds.

The devolution issue was being discussed by all parties in private meetings at Westminster as the Government prepared to lower the quilloting after only one day for second reading next week. The most critical meeting last night was the so-called "steering group" of Labour's anti-devolutionists.

Tories to vote against devolution

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Anti-devolution attitudes seemed to be hardening again at Westminster yesterday as two of the 13 Liberals indicated that they would vote against the Government in key votes next Wednesday.

The Shadow Cabinet, as expected, decided to issue a three-line whip to members to vote against both the quilloting and the second reading. That will cause anguish to the handful of Tories committed to devolution.

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HOME NEWS

Car men's pay hopes dashed by TUC stand on 12-month rule

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders confirmed yesterday that there can be no exception to the 12-month rule, in a decision that dashes the pay hopes of miners and British Leyland car workers.

The TUC economic committee reaffirmed its line in respect of Merchant Navy officers, who had sought to breach the policy, but it is firmly expected to act as a yardstick for all other groups of workers.

Chief among them are the miners and 103,000 Leyland workers who voted last week to accept a shift to centralized wage bargaining that included a 10 per cent rise all round from November 1. Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, had asked for the TUC's view on the package, which seeks to put all 34 car plants on a common anniversary date.

The TUC is going through the motions of consulting the Leyland unions on the impact of the 12-month rule on the deal, but senior members of the general council yesterday privately ruled out any exemption.

Issued workers will get the Government's permissible rise from the date on which their phase two settlement expires.

The halt of 10 per cent all round, which would have given some workers a rise only three or four months after last year's pay boost, helped to get the wage reforms accepted by two to one in a secret shopfloor ballot.

But it was denounced by one leading TUC member last night as "bloody inept industrial relations".

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, told the economic committee that if the Leyland pact was approved "I will be back here tomorrow afternoon".

His union is officially "seeking to achieve" rises of up to 90 per cent from November 1 in direct conflict with wage policy, but Mr Gormley is firmly supporting the 12-month rule.

The National Coal Board's response to the miners' claim is being considered by their leaders today. The board will tell the union that pitmen are not entitled to any increase before March 1, 1978. It will seek—and, in the light of yesterday's decision, will evidently get—TUC support for its reliance on the 12-month rule.

Beyond that, the board intends to stick within the Government's guidelines, limiting increases to 10 per cent.

The Merchant Navy officers' pay dispute, however, is nearer a solution. Yesterday, when leaders of the four unions involved held talks with the shipping employers on a possible productivity deal on the lines of that agreed with Canadian Pacific Ships.

That deal, which gives rises of 15 to 22 per cent "within the pay policy", is being used as a model for an industry-wide agreement.

In the absence of such a pact, the main union, the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, is going ahead with a ballot on industrial action. Until yesterday, the shipping employers had said a productivity scheme compatible with wage restraint guidelines could not be negotiated throughout the industry.

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The public takes for granted many gruesome tasks faced by fire crews

By Stewart Tandler
Home Affairs Reporter

Many a grown man will admit to a secret twinge of envy at the sight of a fire engine racing to the rescue. Few probably consider the men hanging on inside or what may face them.

Heads turned in Forest Gate, east London, on Tuesday night when engine P21 and another pump answered a call to a terrace house. The glamour would have been rapidly dispelled at the sight of a 55-year-old woman dying after self-immolation with paraffin.

Men of "red watch" based at Stratford fire station gathered round her as she lay moaning, her body a mess of burns.

That did not quite compare with a case of a woman's body exploding in the heat. It lacked the drama of the Moorgate train disaster or the explosion at Roonan Point, which many of the crew attended.

At Moorgate conditions were so bad that the Salvation Army dropped its scruples and served whisky to the firemen.

But a fireman's day can go to the other extreme of utter mundaneness. On Monday the red watch spent its time pumping out a sewer, then a public subway; a dead budgerigar was rescued from a house and two men helped a housewife who had locked herself out, leaving food cooking inside.

Last week the watch climbed dozens of stairs in tower blocks of council flats to release people trapped in lifts because of the power failures. Last summer they were fighting grass fires night and day. The heat was so intense that a makeshift pool was rigged in the fire station yard into which the men jumped fully clothed.

The public remembers Moorgate but a lot of fires and accidents are like Moorgate scaled down. Acting Station Officer Reuben Clarke said, "He and his men feel that, like a lot of the public services, they are taken for granted."

Between May last year and April this year the London Fire Brigade received 3,679 injuries and a half, and the results of a fire-fighting strength of 6,500 men. Every one of Mr

Clarke's men has been injured at some time.

On Tuesday night Mr Clarke was in command of an area of the borough of Newham covering 750,000 people, three hospitals, a large chemical works, a huge freight yard and other industrial properties. His responsibilities include 40 tons of nitroglycerine, radioactive material and a timberyard.

Mr Clarke, aged 44, has been a fireman for 23 years and his take-home pay is just under £50 a week. Two of his three children receive free school meals. His immediate boss, London's longest serving full-time station officer, a fireman for 30 years, takes home about £65.

At the other end of the scale is Leading Fireman Andrew Smith, with 11 years' service. His gross pay for a recent calendar month was £385.72. That includes part of an annual £415 London weighting, £45.64 monthly travel allowance, £29.52 overtime at time and a half, and the results of a cost-cutting exercise of £137.15 in tax.

After paying £137.15 in tax, national insurance, service benefits and £26.11 for fireman's accommodation, he was left with £221.57 for himself, his wife and two children. Everyone else on the watch was paying for a mortgage.

Fireman Ronald Fairweather, after serving for four years, recently took home £218. It takes five years to become fully qualified, and then he will receive an additional £3 an hour. There will be another £3 if he says 15 years in the job. His wife works in a fire control unit. In a recent month she took home over £250.

The fire control staff appear to be an anomaly of the system. While they do not get the fare allowances given to the firemen in lieu of housing, they have greater opportunities for overtime only if they work on at the end of shift or for public holidays.

Control staff must do overtime as a full shift, and last month the 180 staff in London worked a total of 1,200 hours overtime.

All the men on the red watch pointed out that they were better off than other brigades because of the London weighting and the fare allowance.

Their money may differ from the rest of the country's but they share the difficulties of a 48-hour week and the shift system required by staff shortages. This week the watch will have worked from 9 am to 6 pm on Sunday and Monday, from 6 pm to 9 am on Tuesday and Wednesday, had Thursday and Friday off, and returned at 9 am on Sunday.

The system is used by almost all urban brigades. Many men do not go home between night shifts but stay with friends. Between shifts it is not unusual for some firemen to work part time at a variety of jobs, although regulations advise against it.

At least one man, with 19 years' service, admitted that he was thinking of leaving the service. Others are waiting to see what their dispute will bring. The London membership of the Fire Brigades Union supported a strike ballot at the conference this week but Strat-

ford's firemen are prepared to go along with next Monday's action.

Mr Clarke said: "The police have got an inquiry but we had five in 11 years. Over the years they have appealed to our consciences but that does not bring a crust of bread. If you go into a shop to buy on hire purchase you feel ashamed to tell them your salary."

"We are asking for the average bloke's wage. We want what a dustman gets. His determination was matched by others. They cannot afford to strike but they cannot afford not to."

Stratford was involved in another dispute recently and two people died. The station received angry telephone calls; letters and bricks were thrown and the men are prepared for further hostility. They will picket the station but there will be no attempt to stop service men from moving in or using the equipment if they can.

Mr Fairweather said: "If the fireman's job was just to squirt water anybody could do it. But it is more than that."

Mr Clarke said: "The police have got an inquiry but we had five in 11 years. Over the years they have appealed to our consciences but that does not bring a crust of bread. If you go into a shop to buy on hire purchase you feel ashamed to tell them your salary."

"We are asking for the average bloke's wage. We want what a dustman gets. His determination was matched by others. They cannot afford to strike but they cannot afford not to."

Tory chiefs fretting over lack of headway

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Frustration was tangible last night after the first meeting of the Shadow Cabinet in this new session of Parliament. Whatever the Government did, however roughly it was faring with industrial disputes, it was, it was complained, treating it as a triumph.

Mr Callaghan baldly persisted with his insistence that the average family man was better off in real terms today than in early 1974. How much the Tories thought they confounded him with the truth of the opposite. Mrs Thatcher's colleagues last night contemplated what they considered to be the Government's duplicity and fretted at their inability to make any political capital or headway.

Take the firemen's strike. The Opposition had to support, Mr Whitelaw pledged in the House, whatever measures the Government would take to meet the emergency. The Opposition had to show responsibility because, well, because it was responsible.

It will be how Labour, leading Tories feared, would behave if they had been in opposition and the Conservatives the Government facing a national firemen's strike. Yet the Tories could not now tolerate, even though privately some of the Shadow Cabinet believed that the firemen had even more of a "special case" than did the postmen.

The Tories, at their party conference, had specifically and loudly embraced the policeman's cause, yet now had to remain silent on the firemen.

On the European elections Bill, which is being published today, the Shadow Cabinet is believed to have decided to allow its MPs a free vote on the method of elections.

That is less than it seems. Whereas the few Tories supporting proportional representation will now be able to let their feelings show without rebellion, it is still expected that the combined vote for the traditional first past the post method will prove overwhelming.

The Scottish Joint Consultation Committee has protested to the Health Services Board over recommendations that all private beds should be withdrawn from five hospitals in Elgin, Nairn, Oban, Brechin and the Isle of Arran.

Dr Andrew Allison, chairman of the committee, has written to the board stating that the recommendations are a serious erosion of the individual's right to private treatment.

But the position seems suddenly more volatile. The Labour weavers are reported to be strengthening again, and some are saying that only a confidence vote will bring them to the government lobby.

The Liberals who are maintaining their opposition are Mr Richard Wainwright, MP for Colne Valley, and Mr Grimmond, MP for Orkney and Shetland. If no more Liberals defect, the Government, despite its basic overall minority position, may carry the vote with nationalist support. But it begins to look more likely that the Government might have to treat the issue as one of confidence in order to whip in the Labour vote although Mr Callaghan has been reluctant to do that.

The government whips have been telling Mr Callaghan that they have it all wrapped up, but a few MPs from all parties say they are far too confused. The whips had been counting on total Liberal support; that is crumbling. They had been counting on at least abstention by the Ulster MPs, but opposition is certain, according to Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Westminster of the Ulster Unionists.

The whips have also been scoffing at the possibility of a Labour revolt. Here they might be more accurate, one Labour hard-liner against devolution concedes reluctantly, his belief that the Scotland Bill at least will carry.

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Electronic revolution is predicted

By Roger Barthoud

By the year 2002, the average British household will be connected to an information network capable of providing everything from recipes to the prices and availability of vegetables in shops near by. The family television set will be a terminal for an enormous range of centrally stored information for household use.

Videophones will enable people to see as well as hear their distant friends or relatives. The quality of air, laundry, lighting and security alarms will be controlled by programmed mechanisms.

Although a drop in the working week, to well as have increased the interest in cooking as a hobby, the busy or absent will be able to have their meals prepared by programmed cookers who select and cook a variety of foods according to preselected recipes.

That is a forecast of the future provided by 2002: Britain plus 25, a 184-page analysis published today by the non-performing Hiley Centre for Forecasting and backed financially by Rank Xerox (UK).

The five authors of the study, who include Mr Michael Shanks, new chairman of the Consumer Council, and Mr James Bellini, who was responsible for the Hudson report, UK in the 1980s, concede that some politically induced caution might distort the fulfilment of their predictions. But on the whole they think that unlikely.

Overall, they expect the quality of life to improve in the next generation. By far the most dramatic changes are foreseen in electronics.

Within the home the possibility is envisaged of sliding to a special chair linked to medical equipment, enabling the individual to obtain a print-out of his daily state of health, with recommendations for action.

Electronics could also replace wallpaper: bright or subdued colour schemes, even moving patterns, could be created by controlled lighting systems, thus reducing the cost of redecoration.

Outside, the journey to work will be largely supervised by traffic-flow monitoring centres. Increasingly the function of driving will be entrusted to automated pilots in each vehicle.

Most activities at present carried out by the Post Office will be done more quickly and cheaply by technological substitutes. Financial transactions will be almost exclusively electronic, and education too will become the child of the electronic revolution.

A further decline in the number of employees in manufacturing is predicted, safely enough, with further moves towards the robot-controlled factory.

One solution to persistent unemployment might be some form of social as well as military national service for men and women, the authors suggest.

As for the falling birth-rate, aggravated by the continuing march of women towards full equality, they foresee pressure for penal taxes on childless people between the ages of 25 and 35. There might also be a return to the "test tube" babies.

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Government whip resigns in defence of power workers

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Joe Ashton resigned as a government whip last night and spoke in the Commons in defence of the power workers. At the same time Conservatives were demanding the resignation of Mr Wedderburn, Secretary of State for Energy, whose department is responsible for the power industry.

Mr Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, said later that he had told ministers three weeks ago of his wish to return to the back benches, but that even in the power stations had forced him to bring forward the date of his resignation. He regretted suggestions that he was opposed to government policy.

A former parliamentary private secretary to Mr Benn, who was in the Chamber to listen to his speech, Mr Ashton told the Commons that the country was running into a serious situation because the Electricity Council would not pay for work that had been done.

"The men might be defeated and returned to work, bitter, angry and determined at some time in the future to get their revenge," he said. "For the sake of a few pounds and a few concessions" the council was going to build up a bitterness "which would cost 10, perhaps, 100 times more."

Mr Ashton hoped that someone in the Government could "least heavily on the bosses of the nationalised electricity industry, who seemed to have no industrial relations nous, and tell them: 'Pay the money.'"

On the opposition side, Mr Tom King, shadow spokesman for the Labour Party, backed Mr Thatcher, tabled an early day motion last night calling for Mr Benn's resignation.

The motion read: "That this House calls upon the Prime Minister to require the resignation of the Secretary of State for Energy, having regard to the incompetent role he has played in both the miners' productivity battle and the power workers' dispute."

The motion's chances of debate are slender, for the Opposition have only two supply days in the Commons before Christmas when it can choose the subject.

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Only one form of Lord's Prayer in revised books

By a Special Correspondent

The General Synod of the Church of England has rejected a proposal that, in the church's revised forms of service, the Lord's Prayer should be printed in its traditional form alongside whatever modern version of the prayer is finally decided on.

By 171 votes to 148 the synod decided yesterday that only one version of the prayer should be included in the series three services incorporated in the Alternative Service Book, but prepared to supplement, not supplant, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

That version will be the translation eventually approved for the series three Holy Communion service.

The synod accepted the assurance of the Bishop of Durham, Dr Hargood, that there was no threat to the traditional form of the Lord's Prayer. "The present permission to use the traditional version is a concession to the services will not be taken away by anything we decide now," he said.

It was probable, he added, that the proposed modern translation would be a revision of the present version, and he

close to the traditional form. The modern version now in provisional use addresses "Our Father in Heaven," uses "you" instead of "thou," and asks "do not bring us to the time of trial" instead of "lead us not into temptation."

The synod also endorsed proposals from the British Council of Churches for a national initiative in evangelism and for a national offering on evangelism to be held not later than 1980. But it attached conditions making clear that it did not envisage any unopposed evangelical crusade.

"We have to speak to society as it is, not as it was," the Archbishop of York, Dr Blanch, said. The Church should not be like some Britons abroad, who, when ignorant of the local language, thought the natives would understand if they spoke English loudly. "It is not a question of saying the old things louder, but of saying the right things in the right language."

The Bishop of Winchester, Dr Taylor, was afraid lest Christians might reach for an evangelical crusade instead of facing such issues as class and race, industrial disputes and family relationships.

Mr Benn says he was not asked about leak

By our Political Editor

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HOME NEWS

Pressure by local authorities has weakened ministry of guidance on homelessness

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Pressure from local authority associations has weakened the new code of guidance to be published on Monday under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The final draft, which the code is understood to follow closely, no longer emphasizes the Government's view that bed and breakfast should be used for homeless families only as a last resort, nor does it emphasize as strongly as earlier versions that homeless families must be given permanent accommodation as soon as possible.

Most crucially, the final draft has deleted the statement of principles first made in a 1974 circular which the Government issued to try to persuade local authorities to change their policies towards the homeless.

The first draft code echoed the circular in saying: "Homelessness is almost always the extreme form of housing need for any family or individual. All those who are homeless should be helped to secure accommodation by advice, by preventive action or by the provision of some form of accommodation."

Also excluded is the statement that for priority groups "the issue is not whether, but by what means a housing authority should secure that accommodation is available".

The final draft does, however, give much greater emphasis to the importance of accommodation for battered wives and stresses that local housing authorities should be ready to extend the "fullest assistance" to homeless young people who are not specified in the Act as a priority group for whom they are obliged to find accommodation.

The code will, in effect, be the first government circular to have statutory backing for the new Act provides that local authorities "shall have regard" to guidance issued under it. The Act, which takes effect in England and Wales on December 1, became necessary because more than a third of local authorities failed to implement the 1974 circular.

The main purpose of the Act is to place a duty on housing authorities to provide accommodation for homeless people, transferring responsibility from social service departments. That duty to provide accommodation, which the code makes clear should usually be permanent, applies to homeless people who fall into one of the priority groups specified in the Act and who have not made themselves homeless intentionally.

That last condition was inserted in the final stages of the Bill and has led to the inclusion of a specific section in the final draft of the code of guidance. Three conditions must be

met before a housing authority decides that an applicant is intentionally homeless.

The applicant must have deliberately done, or failed to do, something that has either made him homeless or is likely to force him to leave accommodation. It must have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy that accommodation; and he must have been aware of all the relevant facts.

Thus anyone who deliberately sells his home or gives up a tenancy has become homeless intentionally. But anyone obliged to sell because he could not keep up the mortgage repayments, or one who gets into financial difficulties, should not be regarded as deliberately homeless, the draft says.

A battered woman fleeing her home should never be regarded as having become homeless intentionally, the draft code says. Nor should people who have been driven to leave their accommodation because of overcrowding, lack of basic amenities or severe emotional stress.

People who get into rent arrears not knowing they are entitled to rent allowances or rebates or other benefits should be regarded as being "unaware of relevant facts".

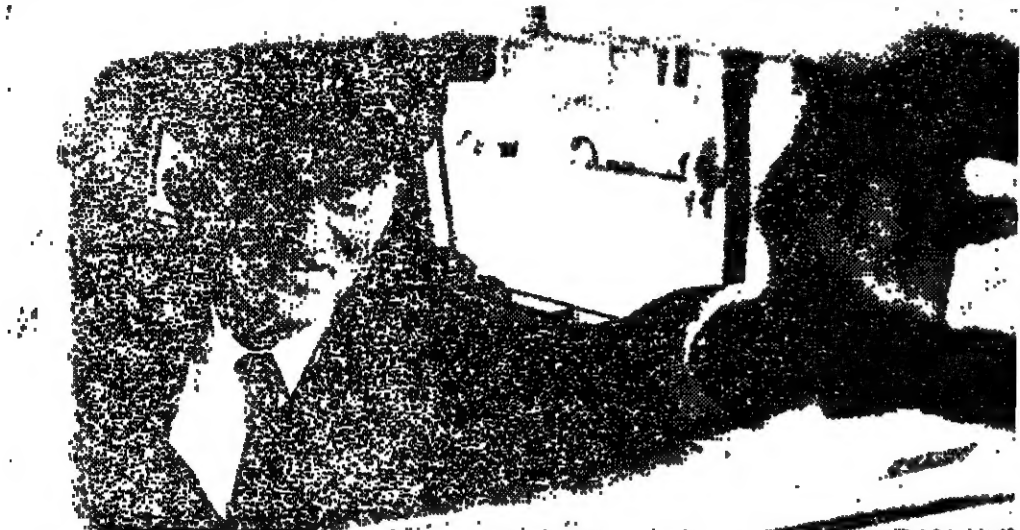
The Act makes clear that it is for the housing authority to satisfy themselves whether someone who approaches them became homeless or threat-

ened with homelessness intentionally, the final draft says. "The onus is not on the applicant to satisfy the authority that he did not do so. . . . Authorities should in any case where there is doubt afford the benefit of the doubt to the applicant."

The final draft explains in much more detail the priority groups who must be given accommodation once an authority is satisfied that they meet the basic conditions. They are, broadly, families with children, battered women, pregnant women, those made homeless by emergencies such as fire, flood or other disasters and people vulnerable because of old age, mental or physical infirmities or other special reasons.

For such groups, housing authorities must secure that accommodation is available. If the loss of previous shelter cannot be prevented the authority is required to ensure that some form of accommodation continues to be available for those in priority need.

Accommodation is "available" only if it is big enough to accommodate the entire family, the draft says. "The practice of splitting families is not acceptable, even for short periods. The social cost, personal hardship and long-term damage to children, as well as the expense involved in rehousing children into care, rules this out as an acceptable course."



Mr Henry Hall: secrets of a chauffeur in a hurry.

A driving force is recognized

By Peter Hennessy

Any Russian spy worth his roubles would be wise to concentrate his attentions not only on errant Cabinet ministers and Philby in the Secret Intelligence Service but on the splendid body of men and women who make up the drivers of the government car pool. For the acquisition of gossip and hard information they are in a position second to none.

Mr Henry Hall, doyen of the car pool, who received the Imperial Service Medal from Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday, refuses, like the old soldier he is, to

accept that proposition ("I would stake my life on 90 per cent of the lads here") as Mr Hall, who retired last May, began working life as a groom in the Royal Engineers.

Once, when he had a "bull and a cow" (row) with Lord Carrington's detective, about smoking in the car, the policeman threatened to reveal in the Secretary of State his guilty secret. Mr Hall, he maintained, had never lost the habit of grooming only the side of the horse upon which the officer mounted. Lord Carrington's side of the car would gleam in the sunlight while the other half was caked with mud.

"Of course, when you are in a hurry you clean only his side of the car. But I always groomed both sides of the horse; the horse came first", Mr Hall insisted yesterday.

Apart from teaching Lord Carrington rhyming slang, Mr

Hall provided him with much diversion. "Lord C", or "the man", as Mr Hall calls him, was due to travel from an engagement at Grosvenor House to Madame Tussaud's. To the Chamber of Horrors, Hall, he said, he climbed in. Forgetting the original instruction, Mr Hall drove him to the House of Lords. Lord Carrington dined out on the story for months.

Another minister of whom he has fond memories is Mr Mason, now Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. "He was always telling you about the mines and Barnsley bitter. He used to give black pudding and bitter to the generals at parties. They loved it."

Mr Hall remains beloved in Whitehall. As Mr Mulley said at the presentation, it sometimes seemed that Mr Hall, driver, counsellor and friend to the mighty, actually ran the ministry as well.

Sir Georg has high hopes for the LPO

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

Sir Georg Solti said yesterday that when he takes over as principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1979 he will attempt to build an international orchestra on a par with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony.

Some people in London might argue that the LPO could already bear such comparison, but when Sir Georg spoke yesterday no one dissented from the proposal that he should repeat in England what he has achieved in America as chief conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Sir Georg said there was enough talent in London to create a truly international orchestra but that could be done only if the right conditions were provided for the orchestral musicians, and that meant considerably reducing the pressure of work on them.

He complained bitterly about the conditions; they could go forty or fifty days without a day off, "which is quite impossible". They worked about 600 sessions a year in London, compared with half that number in Chicago.

Since he did not want to reduce the work at the expense of cutting the musicians' income there had to be extra funds, which should not be found by doing "not quite first-class work".

Mr Eric Bravington, the LPO's managing director, said the orchestra had to keep pumping its case to the Arts Council and the Greater London Council for more financial help. Subsidies in Britain were only a tiny proportion of those for the big foreign orchestras, he said.

Sir Georg added: "I have very good hopes that business support will enable major cultural institutions like the LPO to flourish." He argued that there ought to be tax concessions, as in the United States, on charitable donations.

Bernard Haitink, the retiring principal conductor, will return regularly as guest conductor. Klaus Tennstedt, the German conductor, and Mstislav Rostropovich, the Russian conductor, will also conduct the orchestra for a period each year.

Reforms coming in marriage law

Legislation in the present parliamentary session to reform the matrimonial law administered by magistrates will remove "the disadvantages when compared with divorce proceedings in the higher courts" was announced by Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, in the House of Lords yesterday.

The anomalies criticized by the Finer committee would be removed by the new Bill, which would also introduce a number of other reforms intended to increase the range of relief available from magistrates' courts.

Child poverty 'worse under Labour'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government is likely to go into the next election facing the accusation that child families have become poorer under Labour. Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said yesterday.

Mr Field, who was criticized for helping to humble Labour in 1970 by accusing it of making the poor poorer, said that falling a big increase in child benefits next April, a new campaign showing how all families had become poorer would be launched.

He said that the net weekly gain to families of the last two Budgets was only 30p a child.

Giving the Quetta Rabley Memorial Lecture at South-west College, Mr Field said children had received only £33m of the £3,500m handed out in tax concessions.

Since 1974 the index had risen from 100 to 151 for a single person, to 168 for a married couple, but to only 145 for a family with four children. Discrimination against families was evident.

Families with children had incomes only marginally higher than those of single people once the net effects of tax and benefits were taken into account.

£5m allocated for urgent repairs to waterways

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government is to allocate £5m to the British Waterways Board for urgently needed repairs and maintenance. Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons yesterday. It will form part of the £400m that Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, earmarked for the construction industry in his statement last week.

In reply to a question by Mr Kenneth Weech, Labour MP for Ipswich, Mr Shore said the board had not been able, within its available financial resources, to comply fully with its statutory and other obligations. A report released yesterday recommended that about £5m should be spent in the next three years in the interests of public safety.

The reference to public safety must be taken to imply that the Government is seriously concerned about the risk of breaches and consequent flooding from nineteenth-century canals and reservoirs, which have, at best, received only slight attention.

In the report, by a firm of

private consultants, Peter Fraenkel and Partners, arrears of maintenance are assessed at £37,300m up to the end of 1977 at 1974 prices (equivalent to about £60m today). Future costs are put at £79m up to 1989 (again in 1974 terms) and £8.8m annually thereafter, which Mr Shore described as very substantial sums.

The report observes that by far the largest item in the arrears of maintenance is the need for bank protection. To avoid erosion and disintegration some form of protective revetment is generally necessary, and half of those revetments require replacement or repair.

The report concludes that there is scope for dealing with two or three times the present volume of freight traffic in craft able to use the present locks. But on cruising waterways there are already signs of congestion in certain places at peak periods and if the present rate of growth continues relief facilities might become necessary.

A two-year delay to the report was due to uncertainty caused by the publication of consultative documents and a White Paper on the reorganization of the water industry, the Department of the Environment said.

Fund-matching plan for community cooperatives

From Ronald Faux
Inverness

Community cooperatives to inject local industry into the Western Isles are to be encouraged by the Highlands and Islands Development Board. The board announced yesterday that about £100,000 would be available to help people to reap the benefits of their own resources provided they presented soundly based schemes.

The key was the community itself and would involve an investment of time, effort and locally raised capital. Communities presenting convincing programmes and sufficient local funds could be matched pound for pound by the board.

Two field officers will lead the work and set up the

necessary organization. Professor Kenneth Alexander, chairman of the board, said: "This will not be an easy job. It is a long-term programme, which, if proved worthwhile, will strengthen the islands' social and economic fabric."

Such cooperatives had not been attempted in Scotland, although they were operating in Ireland. The schemes were not confined to one activity but could cover hotels, knitwear factories, market gardens, and the provision of services and organization of social facilities.

The cooperatives might also be eligible for grant aid and other normal assistance through the board's loan scheme. A handbook in English and Gaelic has been published, giving the details of the scheme.



Have you been affected by the industrial dispute at BOC?

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Please do not stock-pile

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National Westminster Bank

Payments 'necessary in Middle East to get sales'

Commission payments to secure overseas sales are absolutely necessary in some Middle East countries, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Sir Lester Suffield, former head of the Ministry of Defence sales organization and formerly with British Leyland, said, however, that there would never be any question of a British company's paying commission to the British Government to further sales.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Randal, aged 40, of the Royal Signals, Aldershot; Geoffrey Wellburn, aged 40, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire; and Frank Nurdon, aged 60, of Barnet Road, Arkley, Hertfordshire, all deny corruption charges.

Mr Wellburn was managing director of Rascal BCC Ltd, of Wembley, which specializes in electronic and communication equipment. Mr Nurdon was the sales director.

The prosecution allege that Colonel Randal took about £25,000 in bribes to ensure that BCC radio equipment was bought and installed in Chieftain tanks sold to Iran.

There had been no suggestion, or hint as far as he knew, of Mr Nurdon or Rascal BCC being concerned in anything like that in Britain.

He was not aware of any payments made to officials of foreign countries by the Crown Agents, Millbank Technical Services.

The trial continues today.

HOME NEWS

Rules on architects' fee scales 'against the public interest'

By John Huxley
Business News Staff

Rules that prevent architects and surveyors from quoting competitive fees are acting against the public interest, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concludes in two reports published yesterday.

The commission was satisfied that more than a third of architects' and surveyors' services were supplied by those who calculated fees according to an agreed scale and thereby conducted their affairs so as to restrict competition.

It says that fee scales, in particular those determined by the suppliers of services and supported by rules prohibiting competition, could not be relied on to produce a charge reasonably related to the amount of work and skills involved in any one job.

Rules of associations that prevented competitive quotation of fees deprived clients of the opportunity to obtain comparative estimates. Thus fees were maintained at a higher level than they might otherwise be.

A statement from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, said that Mr. Hattersley, the Secretary of State, would ask the Director General of Fair Trading to investigate the matter and to recommend amendments to the rules governing fee scales.

Mr. Fraser, Minister of State at the department, said Mr. Hattersley expected to receive the recommendations within six months.

The reports, the result of a four-year study by the commission, recommended that the professional bodies should abolish rules requiring members to adhere to fee scales. Instead, they should be allowed to quote freely in competition.

On architects, the commission concludes that the "system of mandatory scales, together with rules which prevent competition for business on the basis

of fees, operates against the public interest and should be brought to an end."

Recommended scales, the commission suggests, should be determined by an independent committee comprising a chairman and three or four members appointed by the Government. The same committee might conceivably perform similar duties in relation to recommended scales of charges for some surveyors' services.

The fee-scale structure of architects, based on a percentage of the cost of works, has long been a subject of controversy. Yesterday's report is a contribution to a debate that began in 1957 when the Government decided to refer the level of architects' costs and fees to the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

The board's report, published a year later, recommended that the fee scale should not be mandatory and that an independent review body should draw up a recommended scale. Negotiations were begun with the Royal Institute of British Architects on the basis of the board's recommendations, but an impasse was reached on the suggestion that the fee scale should not be mandatory. The Government decided that the issue should be put in abeyance.

In evidence to the commission, the Institute, which represents the vast majority of architects in the United Kingdom, argued that abandonment of mandatory scales might lead to widespread fee-cutting, especially during a recession. That, it was suggested, would have damaging effects on the supply of architects' services and on professional standards.

The Institute did concede, however, that there might be imperfections in its present scales of charges. It said it would be happy to see—indeed, wished to see—an independent review body set up if the commission reported in favour of retaining the mandatory fee scale.

Architects' Service and Surveyors' Services (Stationery Office, £2.85 each).

Tenants pay up rent after bailiffs move in

From Arthur Osman
Droitwich

Legal advice has been sought by some tenants in council houses at Droitwich about the new and intensive use of distraint orders as a matter of policy by Wychavon District Council to recover rent arrears.

Yesterday it was said that injunctions were being considered against the private bailiffs being employed by the council to enforce orders.

It was also suggested that more of the nine district council councils in Hereford and Worcester were watching events at Wychavon and were intending to employ the same methods. Wychavon is mainly rural and has 9,600 council properties, an annual rent income of £4m and net arrears of £54,000. The number of tenants owing a month's rent or more is 302.

In the past few days distraint orders have been issued, most of them on the Boycott Estate, in Droitwich. The population is mostly young, and there is much unemployment. Social workers say the number of broken marriages is increasing because of poor job opportunities and the economic climate.

Rents vary between £12 and £14 a week and are said to be the highest in Wychavon for three-story houses.

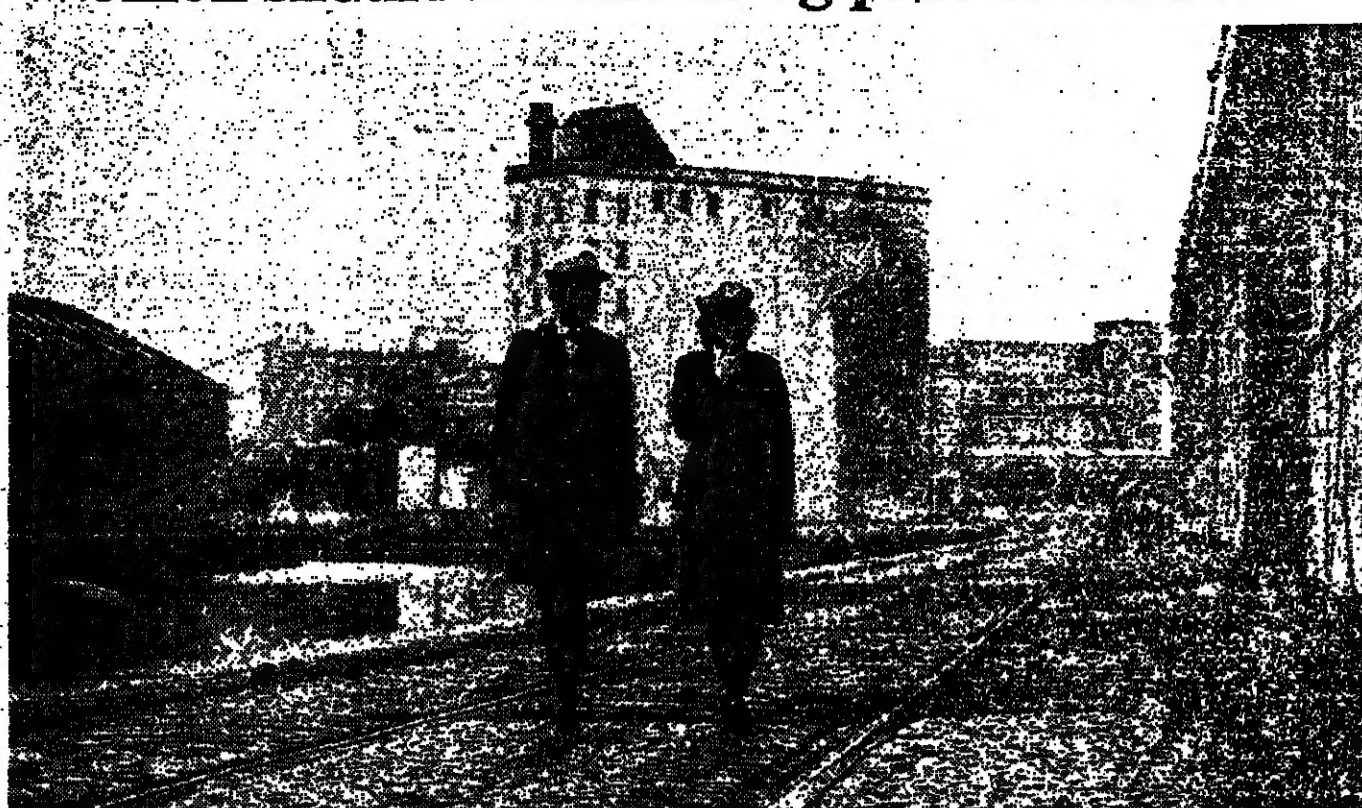
The country's social services department was critical of the use of bailiffs and Mr. Graham Godden, Shaker's housing aid officer in the Midlands, protested to the Department of the Environment.

So far 64 of the 71 orders have been served and 20 recipients have paid off arrears; another 40 have reached an agreement with the bailiffs to pay off arrears at between £5 and £10 a week after lower offers had been refused; one family had disappeared and two had had furniture distrainted.

Average arrears were about 10 weeks and Mr. Godden said one man, who was more than £450 behind with his rent, had taken out a financial loan to clear it off and had got himself further into debt.

On Monday the council's housing committee reaffirmed its new policy and yesterday Mr. J. W. Fisher, the housing manager, said: "The sort of situation we were in involved, for example, 12 visits in one case without any payment. Eventually my people got fed up and instructed me to employ bailiffs."

"It has had a remarkably salutary effect, with many of the 300 in arrears already coming forward to settle up."

On the beat, 4: Sex Discrimination Act has integrated police duties
Women shoulder increasing part of burden

Police Constables Jane Dawes and Vivien Edwards (holding radio) on patrol in Moss Side, Manchester.

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Over the personal radio of Constable Jane Dawes comes a request for duty cars in the neighbourhood to go to trouble that has broken out in a cafe. We are patrolling in a Mini-Panda almost on the spot.

WPC Dawes knows that this is one of the toughest places in Manchester, typical of the crumbling inner city areas fuelling Britain's high crime rate. There is plenty of violence in the area covered by the division, including six murders so far this year. Yet 15 per cent of foot patrol officers there are women.

The constable pauses momentarily before pushing open the cafe door to glance at the expectant faces of the youngsters round the pool tables. She is outnumbered by about 20 to one. She says later that she recognized some of them, otherwise she would have thought twice about going in without aid.

A couple of Pakistanis come from behind the counter talking rapidly in broken English. A white man with a broken nose chimes in. Youngs raise their voices. She does nothing except listen, an oasis of calm, asking a question or two quietly. The din subsides.

Then more policemen arrive. A couple of youngsters leave, protesting that it was all a joke really and that the Pakis-

tanis reacted too strongly and came as them with a billiard cue. The possibility of worse trouble has been soothed away. "I'll ask the local policeman to call and have a chat," is her farewell remark.

WPC Dawes is 26 and has been in the force for six years. Her first job on duty that night was to see about a theft. A blank-faced blonde clutching a pink hair-brush told her she had discharged herself from a mental hospital. She showed bruises on her arm and said she could not return home to face her husband, who had ended the previous night in a club where her handbag full of drugs had been stolen. All day she had been looking for it.

She says she had thought of throwing herself from one of the bleak blocks of flats. "Don't throw yourself under a Mini," WPC Dawes says, not callously, but seeking rapport. Back in the police station, she says faintly: "Don't throw yourself out of the window." (She could not, anyway; they do not open far enough.)

All the time the policeman is lessening tension, making such ideas seem absurd, it works. After patient doctor, to social workers, trying to find somewhere for her to stay, they drive into Manchester to a hostel.

Part of the job is saving people from the worst they can do to themselves. Much of the rest is saving them from the worst they can do to each other.

On foot patrol in the same area, WPC Vivien Edwards, aged 19 and with a year's service, up, if she sees something different, a gate open at the rear of a shop, she goes in, all 5ft 5in of her.

There is no false bravado. She knows what it is like being assaulted. "I was searching a female prisoner when she lashed out suddenly."

WPC Dawes has also been attacked, while serving in the centre of Manchester, she approached a disturbed man who suddenly took a swing at her. She clawed his face with her nails in self-defence, but drew no blood, and before he could recover, two policemen arrived.

More and more, women in the British police will find themselves in the front line, though police chiefs are anxious to keep them out of conflict they cannot physically handle, in spite of training.

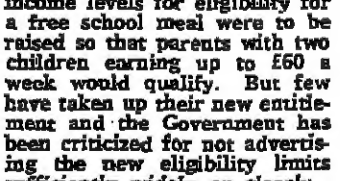
Part of the reason for the changing role of women in the force is the Sex Discrimination Act, which has integrated their work with men's. Another is that forces are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and keep men.

On January 1, 1976, two days after the Act came into force, there were 408 women officers in Greater Manchester, compared with 5,497 men. There are now 658 women and 5,652 men. More than half the probationers in the force (officers with less than two years' service) are women, compared with a third on January 1, 1976.

The proportion of foot patrol officers who are women ranges up to 21 per cent in one division in Greater Manchester. In the last 12 months 28 women in the force were seriously assaulted.

Police pay, page 16

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE STAFF
England and Wales



Unemployed youth 'fare better than most'

By Annabel Ferriman

Youth unemployment does not warrant greater public concern, intervention or cash than that of any other generation, according to a new survey by Political and Economic Planning published today.

Men in their thirties and forties with children suffer most from being out of work, and their families suffer with them. Employers should be subsidized to take them on, it says.

Its authors, a summary of whose findings are published in today's *New Society*, traced and reinterviewed people who were unemployed in 1973 and whom they had first talked to for their National Survey of the Unemployed that year.

When the samples were seen again in 1976 the older people were less likely to have had some work in the meantime and were more likely to have taken worse jobs than they had done previously.

The young had fared better than other people in every way. Where they were in work they had had by far the biggest increase in earnings, compared with their 1973 pay, and their jobs were likely to have been upgraded.

One striking fact that emerged was that they were very likely to have changed jobs. A quarter of those aged between 18 and 24 had three or more jobs in those three years. About 11 per cent had had five or more.

In the case of older men, those who were unskilled or semi-skilled and who had one child, appeared to do worst of all. The authors suggest that child dependency allowances led them to seek higher levels of pay and therefore to be out of work longer.

In the PEP sample the family men aged between 25 and 54 were generally unskilled, low-paid when in work, prone to ill health or disabled. The factor that seemed to determine whether they found work in the three-year period appeared to be how many children they had, those with more children having worked less.

That led the authors to conclude that the level of dependency allowance is of the utmost importance and their conclusion was borne out by two other pieces of evidence.

First, PEP found both in 1973 and 1976 that the minimum pay requirements of those out of work were strongly related to the levels of their benefit income. Second, those married men with children had worked in the three-year period the level of pay had been consistently higher the more children they had.

The authors find these results disturbing in relation to public policy, because of the long-term effects on those out of work. While in the short term their actions might be logical, in the long term these unemployment benefits have no way of improving their income by overtime or promotion and their lives are often a constant battle to make ends meet.

The authors say one solution might be to subsidize jobs for the longer term, unskilled unemployed. Other possibilities include the introduction of a system of negative income tax. Where are they now? (By W. W. Daniel and Elizabeth Sulzice, available from PEP, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BS, £4, plus 25p postage and packing.)

Our Political Correspondent writes: Present policies of the government on youth unemployment are too piecemeal when viewed against the background of EEC initiatives, the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities says in a report published yesterday.

"We would like to see an immediate commitment to a policy of school-based preparation for work and work-based continuation of education for all young people," it said. "This should be within the framework of overall economic policy aimed at full employment."

8th Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities: Youth Unemployment (Stationery Office, £1.85).

Power to cane restored

Power to cane boys and girls in Nottinghamshire's six children's homes, with up to six strokes at a time, was restored to senior staff yesterday by a 21 to 7 vote of the county's Conservative-controlled social services committee. Canning was banned two years ago by the Labour group that then controlled the committee.

Before yesterday's decision a petition signed by 295 social workers employed by the county council had called on the committee not to restore caning. Labour members of the committee called for a seminar to discuss the subject with child welfare experts.

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T10/11S

£18m road plan awaits hunt for lost legion

By Philip Howard

The rescue dig at Magiovinium has started as the bulldozers of the Department of Transport, which announced yesterday that the archaeological exploration will last for at least six months.

After that its characters will move in to divert the A5 (Watling Street) through the centre of Milton Keynes.

The diversion has been designed to avoid the scheduled area of the Roman town of Magiovinium, which is believed to be the site of the Roman legion. However, archaeologists consider that the area, delineated from aerial photographs, is far too small, and that important Roman remains extend beyond the line of the new road.

Archaeologists from the Ancient Monuments Secretariat of the Department of the Environment will dig to see whether they are right.

Magiovinium is a name of mystery from the early days of the Roman invasion. Its position, straddling Watling Street and flanked by the river Ouzel, was identified only by the distance intervals on the Antonine Itinerary. Preliminary excavations have found foundations of large structures far outside the perimeter of the ancient monument. There are reasons for supposing that the road will cut through a previously unknown Claudian fort.

If more evidence is found, the fort may have been that of the *Fabiana*, which held the centre of the Platanus Fossa Way frontier about AD 47. Another possibility is that a garrison was maintained at Magiovinium after the Roman advance to Wales.

The archaeologists have a brief opportunity to study the difficult conditions of mid-winter to discover traces of the lost legion.

The 10-mile diversion will cost more than £18m.

Eligibility for free school meals widens next week

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government is to launch an extensive multilingual publicity campaign next week to inform parents of their entitlement over free school meals. From next Monday, when the supplementary benefit rates go up, parents with two children and an income of up to £70 a week (£3,640 a year) will be eligible for a free meal for any child of school age.

That means that about 500,000 more children will be entitled to a free school meal or nearly half as many again as the number eligible before the Government's announcement in August that the cost of a school meal was to rise from 15p to 25p at the beginning of the autumn term.

At the same time in August it was announced that the income levels for eligibility for a free school meal were to be raised so that parents with two children earning up to £60 a week would qualify. But few have taken up their new entitlement and the Government has been criticised for not advertising the new eligibility limits sufficiently widely or clearly.

Provisional figures based on an October census of pupils show an increase in applications for free school meals of only about 13 per cent. A census in October last year showed that 839,000 pupils were receiving free school meals. That was only about three quarters of those believed to be eligible.

Returns from the most recent census, which is not yet complete, also indicate that there has been a drop of 15 per cent in school meals after the recent price increase. Last October, when the price was still 15p, 5,836 children were taking school meals, representing just over two thirds of all children in maintained schools.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the Commons debate on the Queen's Speech last Friday that the new scales to be introduced on Monday would mean that a quarter of the nine million schoolchildren in England and Wales would be entitled to a free meal.

The Government is to issue leaflets about the new scales in Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali, Greek and Chinese, as well as in English and Welsh.

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BRITISH GAS

WEST EUROPE

Overfishing by French
reason for Norway
bar on British ships

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial
Correspondent

A dispute is about to break out among EEC fishing nations, after British fishermen were ordered to leave the Arctic fishing grounds of north Norway at midnight last Saturday, because Community cod quotas had been exceeded.

The British fishermen's claim that they still have 2,500 tonnes of their allocation of cod to catch has been rejected by the Norwegians, who have indicated that French vessels have already taken it. The British Fishing Federation is forecasting idle ships and higher unemployment and is demanding that Mr. Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, ask the EEC for compensation.

A Federation spokesman said last night: "We are furious. Once again we have been playing the game and once again it looks as though we have been cheated."

Losing the cod catch which trawler companies had carefully planned to take them to the end of the year, when new quotas would be agreed, is doubly grievous because other EEC states are only permitted to fish in Norwegian waters in return for British allowing Norway to fish in British waters.

The spokesman said that Norway is frustrated by the EEC's inability to reach any agreement on fishing, had unilaterally set a total target of 54,800 tonnes of cod for the EEC in the Norwegian 200-mile zone, north of the sixty-second parallel. "She blew the whistle on Saturday night when records showed that EEC trawlers had

caught 55,059 tonnes. It was confirmed in Oslo that EEC vessels would not be allowed to return this year," he said.

The EEC had decided that the 18,500 tonnes of cod left for the period between September 1 and the end of the year should comprise 13,000 tonnes for Britain, 3,200 tonnes for France and 2,300 tonnes for West Germany. Britain had caught just under 10,400 tonnes when the ban was imposed on Saturday, according to ministry records here. Norwegian records showed that France and West Germany had taken 8,300 tonnes, about 2,800 tonnes more than their joint quota.

The fishing federation spokesman said last night: "Norway has made no secret of the fact that the French are the culprits, although Norway's only concern is the total EEC quota. The implications are just beginning to sink in. There is nowhere else to go for the vessels to go. The first will be returning in the next few days and they will not go to sea again this year. Some 60 vessel trips have been lost and the chances are cod will be unobtainable by Christmas."

He continued: "When Mr. Silkin goes to Brussels for the next round of talks, idle ships lining our quays and shore workers swelling unemployment figures will provide eloquent proof of what we have been saying all along—quotas don't work. The rest of the world already knows that the EEC in the Norwegian 200-mile zone is a disaster area for economic misery before the EEC will accept reality."

Leading article, page 17

Bonn police take fancy to
British armoured car

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 9

The West German police are pressing for British armoured cars to replace the fording and, they say, inadequate personnel carriers which make Bonn look like an occupied city.

The ugly tank-like SWTs which guard certain Government buildings, embassies and ministers' homes against possible terrorist attacks are "torture chambers" for their occupants and a danger to traffic, the police union's North Rhine-Westphalian branch claims.

The crew, including the driver, can only see out of slits and a colleague has to sit on top when it is moving to give directions. The brakes often fail and it is impossible to shoot accurately from inside the vehicle.

In winter the man on the turret freezes and in summer the steel-clad vehicle is like an oven. It leaks when raining and, for the same reason, is not

petrol-bomb proof, a union spokesman said.

The union is suggesting that the North Rhine-Westphalian government, which is in charge of the police, should buy the Shorland MK3 armoured patrol car, which was developed for police use in Northern Ireland.

Union representatives have examined models being used by the Dutch police at Amsterdam airport and are enthusiastic.

Its higher speed and mobility, lower consumption of fuel and greater range of action made it highly suitable for Bonn, they declared. For psychological reasons they also prefer its appearance—the Shorland looks like a modified Land Rover.

"The SWTs do not give a good impression; we would like something less military," the spokesman added. No comment was available from the North Rhine-Westphalian Land Government but it was understood that they have also been making inquiries about the Shorland.

Sir Christopher Soames criticizes lack of information

Appeal for people to be told what
EEC membership really means

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 9

The present uneasiness in the European Community did not arise so much from its economic crisis as from the fact that member governments, especially those of the larger countries, refused to give it due prominence. Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the Commission until the end of last year, said here today.

"They do not make into account the European dimension and tend to attribute all that is positive in it to their own action, and all that is negative to the Commission," he said at a luncheon given in his honour by the British Conservative Association in France. Sir Christopher was a former British Ambassador here.

"Neither through their actions nor through their rhetoric have governments set about explaining to their public what Europe is all about," Sir Christopher said. During his four years in Brussels he was amazed how little time both the Conservative and Labour Parties had devoted to explaining the Community to the British people.

"When nothing is made clear about it, people cannot

understand; and when things go wrong, they tend to blame the Community." He believed that if Mrs. Thatcher became Prime Minister the Conservatives would explain things in European terms to the British people and he hoped the press would take it on from them.

"Nationalistic habits have prevented us from making the most of the Community. So long as they persist, it is hard to give the Community the chance it deserves. If Europe is to remain in business, this must be changed. Otherwise it will be gradually eroded as the sea erodes the coast. What a waste, and what a contrast to the attitude towards the Community of those countries outside it," Sir Christopher concluded.

When ministers went to Washington, they were at pains to play down the Community. But the Chinese attached great importance to Europe. In South-east Asia the fact that the Community had no voluntary past was a great advantage and enabled it to play a part.

British membership of the Community had opened the European market to the Indian sub-continent, and if Russia

was so hostile, and made life so difficult for the EEC, it was because it saw in the Community the possibility of a European market which it wanted to control.

Turning to direct elections to the European Parliament, he said it would be as wrong to minimize the importance of the Parliament as to exaggerate it, but the main result of direct elections would be to politicize it.

"The 51 British MPs to Strasbourg will talk essentially about European matters not only at election time but between elections. Even if they are anti-European when they first go up there, they will, as experience has shown, be converted to Europe afterwards and will come back and take European positions at home," Sir Christopher said.

On the chances of Britain being ready to participate in European elections by next June, he said that the Government had dragged its feet on the issue. What the founding fathers of Europe had not foreseen was the impact European elections would have on domestic politics. In France it would be a disaster. It was not so certain in Britain.

Terrorists
'prepare
revenge for
Mogadishu'

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 9

West German terrorists trained in Iraq, have returned to Europe for a campaign of revenge for the failure last month of the kidnapping of Dr. Hans-Martin Schleyer and the Luftwaffe hijacking, the weekly magazine Stern reports.

The terrorists are given basic training by the Iraqi Army, the report alleges, and then taken to camps outside Baghdad for special terrorist training.

Some are trained in a camp at Habbaniya, Dr. Wadi Haddad, who is believed to be the head of the special operations section of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and to have organized air hijackings, announced that the council would be established as a gesture to the ecologists, who are likely to play a decisive part in the coming elections, when he visited the national park of La Berne in the forest.

Today's Cabinet announcement said: "The implementation of the nuclear energy programme constitutes for our country, which is very short of energy resources, a national necessity and priority. But on this still new subject, the in-

Elysée move to dispel
nuclear energy fears

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 9

An information council on nuclear energy is to be set up under the chairmanship of Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health.

The decision was made by the Cabinet today and is in line with President Giscard d'Estaing's view that the public should be better informed about the Government's long-term programme for the development of nuclear energy, which has been under increasing attack from ecologists and the left.

The Government hopes the work of the council will prevent repetition of the violent attack at Creys-Malville, in the Isère, at the end of July, where the Super Phoenix 1,200 megawatt fast-breeder reactor is being built.

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Today's Cabinet announcement said: "The implementation of the nuclear energy programme constitutes for our country, which is very short of energy resources, a national necessity and priority. But on this still new subject, the in-

formation of the public is generally inadequate. This leads to reactions of distrust and of fear towards the development of nuclear energy."

The council will be directly responsible to M. Barre, the Prime Minister. It will be empowered to consult scientific bodies and to hear evidence from any person who believes would help achieve its aims. It will consist of a president, appointed for three years, four representatives of local authorities directly affected by the construction of nuclear power stations, and three representatives of environmentalists and ecologists. All will be appointed by the Prime Minister. In addition, two members of the Academy of Sciences, one of the Academy of Medicine, and one of the Academy of Moral Sciences will be appointed by those bodies.

Another four people with special expertise in the fields of energy, economics and communications, chosen by the Prime Minister, will also sit on the council.

It remains to be seen whether the council will be capable of allaying the growing misgivings against the nuclear programme. Twice in the past, Le Monde points out, the government has promised to reveal everything about this programme, but it has not done so.

Socialists to
seek release
of hostages

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 9

A delegation of the French Socialist Party, led by M. Lionel Jospin, of the national executive, arrived in Algiers today on a long-arranged visit. Although meetings with representatives of the Polisario Front have not yet been arranged, it is likely that they will try to negotiate the release of the French hostages held by the rebels in the Western Sahara.

Like the Communists, the Socialists feel it would be worth recognizing the Polisario to obtain the release of the prisoners. M. François Mitterrand, the party leader, said in a radio interview last night that although he condemned the holding of the prisoners "it isn't a good way to obtain their freedom—appearing to organize a military campaign."

"The Sahara peoples, split by an arbitrary act between foreign states, have been the victims of a denial of justice."

M. Robert Fabre, leader of the Radical Party (the third constituent of the Union of the Left) said last night that the taking of hostages "could not justify the right of the people of the Sahara to claim their independence."

Porsche family snub plan
for Austrian car industry

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Nov 9

Opposition by the Porsche family to the manufacture in Austria of a new car by a new Porsche subsidiary is endangering plans by Dr. Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, to set up with jobs for more than 10,000.

"Without the name Porsche, the whole scheme is off," Dr. Kreisky has said.

The Porsche family are still Austrians. They founded their company in West Germany shortly after the war after an unsuccessful attempt to start it in Austria.

The opposition Austrian People's Party maintains that the new car, whose design has already been leaked in the Austrian press, would be too expensive. They would be insurmountable servicing problems, and marketing prospects in the United States would decline with the tightening of President Carter's energy programme.

Dr. Kreisky's Socialist Gov-

Man shot
after seizing
nurse

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, Nov 9

A man who took a nurse hostage at a mental hospital in an attempt to enforce the "liberation" of a female patient, was shot dead here last night. The revolver he had used to threaten hospital staff was later found to be a harmless starting pistol indistinguishable in appearance from a real weapon.

The order to shoot was given to a policeman after the 35-year-old man had started to hit his hostage over the head with the revolver to make her scream into the telephone as he was speaking to officials of the hospital.

The police said it had not been possible to shoot only to injure the man, since the lower half of his body was shielded by his hostage. Police had tried for some four hours to persuade him to surrender.

A hospital official said the dead man was a former nurse who had previously tried to secure the woman patient's release. The hostage, a 24-year-old nurse, was said to be recovering from abrasions and shock.

Members of the Porsche family relinquished their directorship of the Porsche firm in West Germany five years ago but kept control of it through preference shares.

The Austrians point out that one Porsche grandson is employed by Daimler-Benz and another, Herr Ferdinand Piech, is head of the design department at Audi-VW. It is Herr Piech who appears to be leading the opposition to the use of the Porsche name in Austria. He has said on Austrian radio that he and other members of the family do not want to see their name associated with an industrial disaster.

OVERSEAS



Princely kiss: Embrace between the Prince of Wales and Miss Sylvia Crenar, aged 28, in the crowd yesterday at Adelaide airport.

A candid Mr Kruger
defends his actions

From Eric Marsden
Pretoria, Nov 9

Being one of the most unpopular men in the world is not a role Mr. Jimmy Kruger relishes, but he accepts the stigma philosophically in the certainty that his actions which have brought worldwide wrath on the heads of South Africa's Government were absolutely necessary.

At a luncheon for the foreign press, which most correspondents had expected to be off the record, the Minister for Justice, Police and Prisons spoke for quotation about his reasons for outlawing black consciousness organisations, banning or restricting about 50 black and white leaders and stopping publication of three newspapers. It was all done, he made clear, more in sorrow than in anger.

Mr. Kruger talked candidly about his own character, his likes and dislikes. There is no racism in my make-up, whatever, I am a white African. I believe I am the brother of all black Africans. . . . Any solution I seek is a solution for all. He had acted against the "outrageous" actions of the black man can live in peace."

He spoke at length about the letters he had had from black people urging him to stop the "disruption of life in the African townships."

Emphasizing his dis-

interestedness, said: "I don't ben people because I dislike them. I have the greatest respect for Robert Sobukwe (the banned African National Congress leader), though I have never seen him in my life."

As for Percy Qoboka, editor of the black newspaper The World, banned on October 19: "He is a very intelligent, sharp-shooting. I could go a long way with him, but he took a direction totally unacceptable to black people."

On the death in detention of Steve Biko in September, Mr. Kruger was surprisingly forthcoming considering that evidence is to be presented to an inquest next week. He insisted that criticism of his department was ill-directed. "I do not think we have been dishonest at any stage."

When Mr. Biko was first taken ill, the police thought he was "simulating something" and doctors were brought to examine him. On press reports that he had died, Mr. Kruger said: "There is no evidence at all of police involvement. A man can damage his brain in many ways. There are all sorts of possibilities."

He dismissed fears of dictatorship, which was alien to Afrikaners and English South Africans alike. It would be a marvellous country, he said, "where people of the American, Russian and OAU states get off our back."

Next round
on Rhodesia
may be held
in Malta

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

The idea of arranging a conference on Rhodesia to be held in Malta was attracting considerable attention yesterday, after a hint about talks from Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the Rhodesian nationalist leader.

The Foreign Office said that Malta was one of the places mentioned by Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner-designate, during his African tour which ended yesterday, but that no discussion of a date or a venue has been taken yet. Mr. Nkomo was reported as saying in London that a meeting would take place "in a few days time on an island."

Malta has certain advantages for a Rhodesia conference, if all the parties expect to be close to home and having good communications. Geneva, where the ill-fated conference met a year ago, is regarded as being too much of a diplomatic hot-house.

Dr. David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, will confer with Lord Carver and also with Mr. John Graham, the British diplomat who has been conducting the constitutional discussions, this afternoon. He will then give an appraisal of the negotiations so far and announce the next steps when he opens the debate on the annual renewal of sanctions in the Commons tomorrow.

Despite the bad experience of Geneva, it seems that the Government is now in favour of a conference on Rhodesia, where all the main parties could meet round the same table. Certainly, to take soundings individually in Africa, as has been the procedure over the past few months, is very time consuming.

Dr. Owen is expected to move, as to speed up the talks, so as to reach the transition period in time for Rhodesia to become an independent state in 1978. Peter Hill writes from Lagos: Dr. Owen's speech is a generally pessimistic briefing on prospects for an early move towards a Rhodesian settlement from Lord Carver.

Lord Carver, who completed his round of exploratory talks with a long meeting here yesterday with Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Nigerian Head of State, said afterwards: "There is a long way to go before the proposals are accepted by both sides."

He said he would not be prepared to say that he was optimistic about the timetable for majority rule based on the proposals. To do so would be rather unrealistic. But he emphasized that in his round of talks he had not found any acceptable alternative solution. Big problems still remained to be solved.

The most difficult and most important issue was the future of "the armed men on both sides" in the period of transition. Graham today completed six days of discussions with Rhodesian officials and black nationalist leaders by paying a courtesy call on Mr. Ian Smith, the Prime Minister. No details of their talks were available.

The meetings have been held in secret but sources close to the negotiations said two hurdles lie in the way of the Anglo-American plan for a peaceful transition to black rule by the end of next year. They are the make-up of a transitional government and maintenance of law and order during its life; and the type of franchise to be employed in electing a government.

Why a simple election is no longer enough page 15

Inquiry sought into dentist's death

By David Watts

Four hours after he was detained for questioning by police in Durban on August 3, Dr. Boosen Haffjee, a "brilliant" young dentist of Indian extraction, was found dead.

The Durban police say that Dr. Haffjee, who worked at the city's King George V Hospital, was held under the Criminal Proceedings Act for investigation under the Terrorism Act. They say that he was arrested in the early hours of August 3 and hanged himself in his cell with one leg of his trousers.

His hospital colleagues say that he was absent from work throughout the previous day. Amnesty International yesterday released photographs of Dr. Haffjee's body, obtained from the police, which showed a considerable number of abrasions some of which were caused before death, according to Dr. Sigurd Riber, Albrechtsen of the Institute of Forensic Pathology in Copenhagen, who was consulted by Amnesty.

Dr. Albrechtsen said that the photographs showed evidence of either blows or pressure applied to the back, knee joints, elbows and ankles. From the photographs there was no "convincing" evidence of constriction of the neck.

He said it was not possible to arrive at a conclusion as to the cause of death in the absence of the autopsy report which has not been made public by the South African authorities. He appealed to Dr. I. Gordon of the University of Natal, who carried out the post-mortem examination to make his findings known. Amnesty appealed for an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death.

A story of alleged official callousness over Dr. Haffjee's death was told by Miss Rabia Rahim, the dead man's aunt, who is a teacher of the dead in Cambridge, London, and was on holiday with her family in Pietermaritzburg at the time.

The police, she said, had not even been able to agree on the method Dr. Haffjee allegedly used to kill himself. Colonel Francois Steenkamp, the Durban police chief, said he had hanged himself by attaching one leg of his trousers to the door of his cell. Another officer said he had tied it to one of the bars on the window. When asked in a telephone call about this discrepancy, Col. Steenkamp said: "I don't have to talk to you about this," and hung up.

Miss Rahim said she had spoken to Dr. Haffjee on August 1, before his return to Durban and 48 hours before he died. He was happy, talked of his plans for the future and what they planned to do the following evening. The first the

family heard of his death was when police came to the house to say he had committed suicide. "Our reaction was disbelief," she said.

The doctor's flat was searched by a number of policemen for two hours. They took away a book, a pamphlet and some personal letters. When the family asked for permission to remove the body, police officials said they could not do so because it had no identity card.

When asked how the police could have arrested a man without asking for an identity card, the police official pushed aside Miss Rahim and walked away.

The only clue to police motives came the following day when officers detained a mechanic friend of Dr. Haffjee and questioned him all day, saying that the doctor had "confessed to everything". They referred to telephone conversations between Dr. Haffjee and his friend in May this year.

Soon afterwards a colleague of the doctor was abducted by two Afrikaner-speaking whites outside the hospital. He was blindfolded and driven for about 15 minutes before being taken into a house, tied up and suspended from the ceiling. Whenver he could not answer a question his head was dipped under water. He was later dumped by a roadside where he was found by a friend.

Massacre claim
by Army in
south Philippines

Zamboanga City, Nov 9.—Muslim insurgents massacred 15 Christian civilians last week in a fresh wave of guerrilla attacks, the military authorities announced here. Another 16 people were killed in further attacks in the troubled Mindanao-Sulu area in southern Philippines.

The insurgents—the Moro National Liberation Front—lost four men in the raids—Agence France-Press.

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HOME NEWS

'Misleading sexual advice given to children'

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Children as young as 10 years are being given unbalanced and sometimes wrong information about sexual matters in teenage magazines and by officially sponsored bodies such as the Family Planning Information Service, said the Health Education Council, the Responsible Society said yesterday.

Dr Stanley Ellison, chairman of the society, which was formed in 1971 to engage in research and education in matters affecting the family and youth, said there was an assault on children, apparently with the aim of ensuring that adolescents engaged in sexual intercourse at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Government appeared to encourage that assault. There was a constant reference to "boy" and "girl" sexual intercourse in a brochure published by the Family Planning Information Service, and the age of consent was mentioned as an afterthought rather than as a matter of significant importance, Dr Ellison said.

The brochure advised boys and girls to use private family planning clinics and the FPA's mail order business, which seemed a questionable use of public money. The brochure also recommended special advisory sessions for young people where the "advantage is that there is no chance of meeting older relatives or neighbours."

Because parents were largely unaware of what was happening, the society had produced a pamphlet for them, which would also be sent to the Department of Health and women's organizations, Dr Ellison said.

The pamphlet, which says that five thousand schoolgirls become pregnant every year before they have much idea of what life has to offer, asks parents if they know what those experts who devise sex education courses and give advice in magazines are saying.

In a statement supporting the pamphlet, Sir John Peel, former president of the British Medical Association and of the Family Planning Association, said the crucial approach to much popular teaching to contraception, abortion and venereal disease was totally irresponsible because there were many and serious complications.

Tolerant and permissive trends could be reversed only if parents took a hand, made themselves aware of what was happening and took action to protect their children from exploitation, Sir John said.

A pamphlet on health education in schools, published today by the Department of Education and Science, says that since 1943, when schools were officially recognized as having a responsibility for sex education, there had been many changes that raised often hotly discussed ethical and moral questions.

The question that every school must decide, in cooperation with parents, was the extent to which it had a responsibility in helping young people.

Dear Parents (Responsible Society, The Old Rectory, The Green, Hinton, Hants, RG20 1JN; Health Education in Schools (Stationery Office, 22.50).



Thatcher tree: Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, planting a tree yesterday in Flood Street, Chelsea, where she lives, as part of the Tree Week campaign.

Teaching union passes 100,000 membership

By Our Education Correspondent

In-service membership of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is now more than 100,000, Mr Terence Casey, general secretary of the union, announced yesterday. The union represents nearly a quarter of all teachers working in schools, he said.

The news should have important repercussions on the size of the union's representation on such bodies as the Burnham Committee on Teachers' Salaries, the Schools Council on examinations and the curriculum, and any other teachers' representative groups with which the Government may wish to hold discussions.

At present the National Union of Teachers, which claims an in-service membership of 230,000, has 16 representatives on the Burnham Committee, compared with only three representatives of the NAS/UWT.

The latter's representation has not changed since 1963, when the association's total membership was only about 40,000.

A dispute over representation between the NAS/UWT and the NUT has simmered for many years. Between them the two organizations represent more

than two thirds of serving teachers.

The NAS/UWT feels particularly aggrieved that the NUT holds an absolute majority on the Burnham Committee, having 16 seats compared with the total of 12 held by the other seven teachers' associations. This means, in effect, Mr Casey argues, that the NUT unilaterally determines what the policy on teachers' pay should be.

Mr Casey wants 'Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to use her powers under the Remuneration of Teachers Act, 1965, to determine the formula for representation on the committee, which should reflect the size of the constituent bodies, but on which no one body should have an overall majority, he says.

The minister has asked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to determine what representation each teachers' union should have, after the NUT refused a few weeks ago to participate in discussions on the format for the department's circular on the curricular review on the ground that the NAS/UWT was over-represented on the proposed teachers' consultative group.

Farmers to reserve space for wildlife

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

The farming lobby in England and Wales committed itself yesterday to finding space for beauty spots and wildlife in a shrinking and intensively cultivated agricultural landscape.

The National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association appealed to their combined membership of more than 200,000 for provision of "small parcels of land specifically for their contribution to landscape or wildlife, while the generality of the countryside is used to produce food and timber."

The statement marks a milestone in nature conservation since the interests of wildlife and farming are contradictory. Some of the rarest insects, plants and birds need habitats left uncultivated and often undisturbed for decades.

British husbandry, among the most advanced in Europe, is being pushed to produce more from a shrinking area. Government policy demands more ruthless efficiency while wildlife thrives best where agriculture is slovenly.

The NFU and CLA decided, after strong appeals from the Countryside Commission, that their members had a responsibility for conserving habitats that often could not be restored once they had been made suitable for farming.

"We must establish a wider appreciation in our own industry of the vital contribution we can make towards the conservation of the landscape and of wildlife", the statement said.

It called on farmers and landowners to dig ponds and keep some permanent pasture free of fertilizer and weed-killer. It recognized that farmers who followed its advice might deny themselves income, and said: "Proper advice, practical and financial incentives for individual farmers and landowners will be needed if conservation objectives are to be achieved."

North criticizes composition of NEB offshoots

By John Charles

The Government's proposal to set up regional offshoots of the National Enterprise Board in north-east and north-west England has received only a cautious welcome in the regions concerned.

The move is seen clearly as an attempt to buy off opposition to the new devolution Bills and prevent a repetition of the position in which many Labour MPs in the North opposed the last Bill because of fears in their constituencies that Scotland would gain unfair advantages on the industrial front.

Mr Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne and Wear County Council, which has led much of the opposition in the north-east to Scottish devolution, said yesterday that he was greatly disappointed that elected members of local government organizations were not being invited to serve on the new regional boards.

The new boards, according to the government statement issued on Tuesday, are to be comprised of part-time members drawn from industry and trade unions together with the existing NEB regional directors. Mr Campbell said he hoped that that was "an oversight" on the part of the Government, which would quickly be put right.

Three counties, Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, and Durham, are forming a joint pressure group, the Northern Counties Association, which will try to prevent any unfair share of government aid and job attraction from resources going to Scotland.

That is seen by the leaders of the three counties concerned as a better means of presenting the north-east's case to the nation and to Whitehall, rather than the unpopular idea of creating an elected regional government.

The fact that the proposed regional enterprise boards will consist of part-time appointed members, rather than democratically elected ones, is seen as a basic weakness.

Well-informed sources in Manchester and Liverpool say that political leaders view the government proposals as little more than a halfway house in what is really required.

More damages for princess

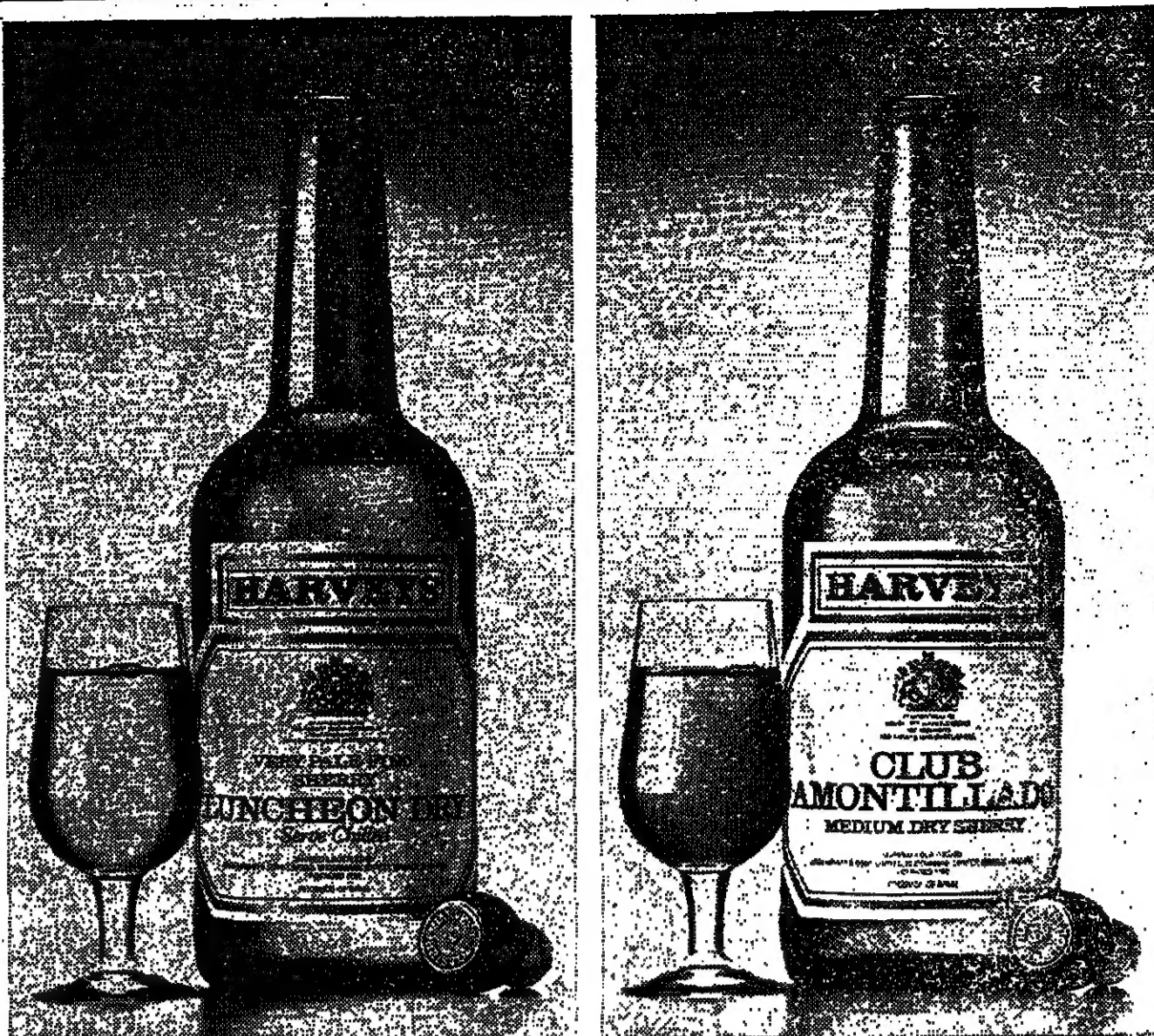
Associated Newspapers paid substantial damages to the former Foreign Minister of Uganda, Princess Elizabeth Bagaya of Toro, yesterday in settlement of a libel action.

Other newspapers have paid substantial sums during the past two years for repeating accusations about her made by President Amin. Associated Newspapers paid the sum yesterday over a report in the *Evening News* on December 9, 1976.

Police recover a Constable work

A Constable painting stolen from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, on Tuesday, was recovered by the police yesterday.

The oil, depicting East Bergholt, painted in 1808, was recovered from a picture dealer's shop in Cambridge. The police are looking for the person who took it there.



The making of two classic styles of sherry.

Throughout the summer, white Palomino grapes were slowly ripening on the gently rolling hills that surround Jerez de la Frontera.

They were harvested in September, then pressed, and now the mosto (juice) is being allowed to ferment freely in casks within the cool, vaulted bodegas.

By next Spring, certain mostos will be developing flor (yeast on the surface of the young wine), and others will not.

Only those that do will ultimately become finos or amontillados.

The classic fino is very pale in colour and very dry to taste, with a delicate bouquet. Luncheon Dry is just such a fino, and is always best served chilled as it is in Jerez itself.

The classic amontillado is richer in colour and medium dry to taste, with a particular nuttiness from the cask. Such is the character of Club Amontillado.

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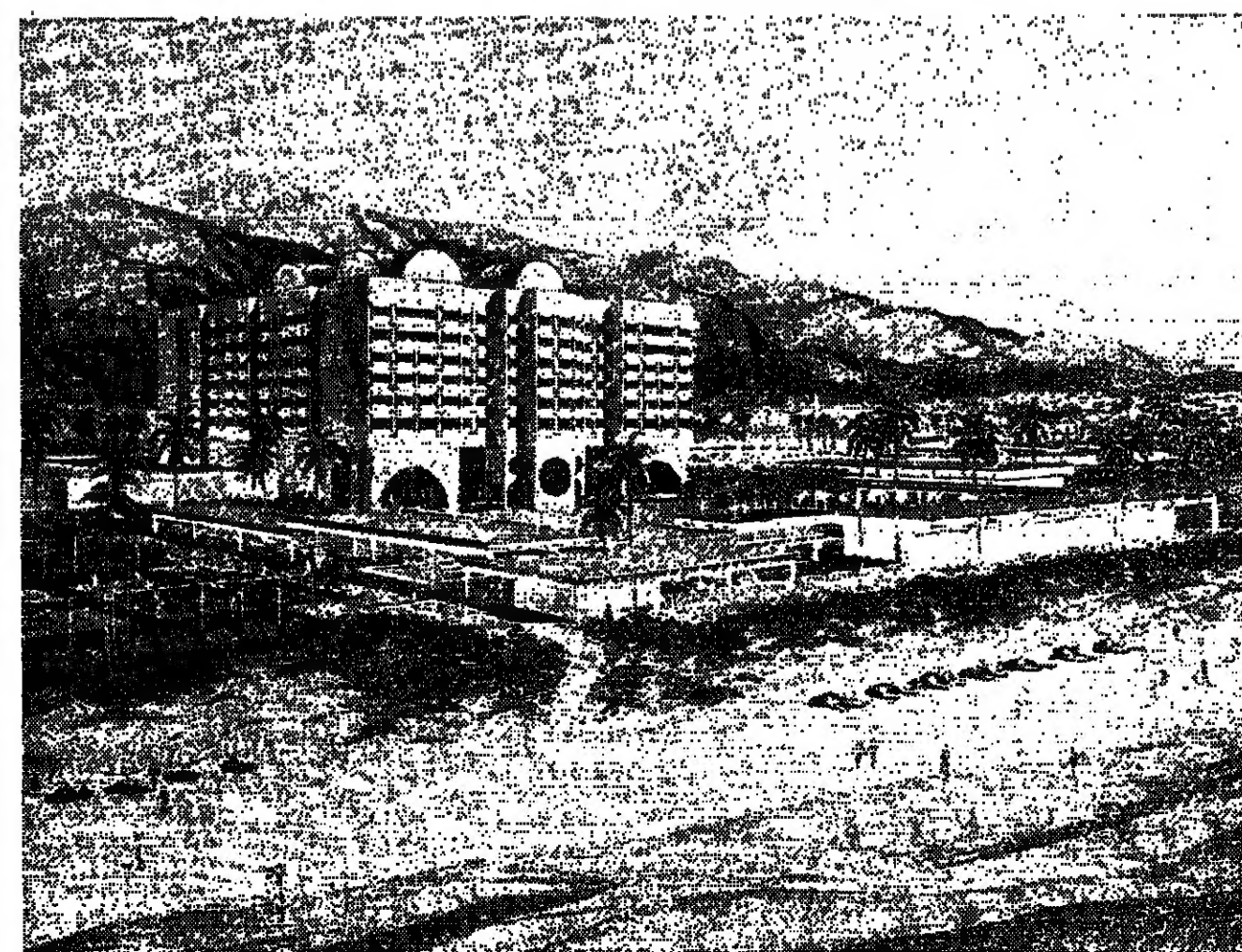
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From here to obscurity at question time

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Callaghan's valiant attempt to change the course of Prime Minister's question time in the Commons on Tuesday and Thursday each week appears to have failed. For years MPs have complained that Prime Ministers have been getting away with murder by having it with their power to transfer questions that they do not want to answer to departmental ministers lower down the pecking order.

Prime Ministers, on the other hand, would argue that this power of transfer had nothing to do with any desire to avoid questions but existed because they could not be expected to reply across the whole range of government business and that in any case MPs would probably get a better answer from the minister most closely involved with the particular query.

As time went on and MPs became craftier more and more devices were invented to force a question on a Prime Minister. In the end, questions became so obscurely worded that no

one could be certain what was being asked. That had the advantage for MPs of making it difficult for the Prime Minister to transfer the questions and they could then jump in with the supplementaries they had wanted to ask in the first place.

Endless questions appeared on the order paper asking Prime Ministers whether they would pay an official visit to Timbuctoo or Outer Mongolia, or if they would list their engagements for next Tuesday week.

So Mr Callaghan made the daring suggestion to MPs a few months ago that if they would ask more pertinent questions he would undertake not to transfer their queries quite so frequently. For a while that seemed to be working, but on Tuesday, as the Prime Minister ended his first question time of the new session, Mr Malcolm Rifkind protested that his question asking Mr Callaghan if he would visit the International Monetary Fund in Washington had been transferred to the Treasury.

To make matters worse, the wording had been

changed so that Mr Rifkind's question ended up by asking if Mr Healey would visit the IMF.

In vain did Mr Callaghan protest that he could not be expected to answer everything, and that if he did there would be nothing left for any other minister to do. After all, he pointed out, since the beginning of the experiment he had transferred only 14 questions out of 532 addressed to him.

Opposition benches roared with glee as Mr Callaghan added that he had the feeling that some of them were trying to make things as difficult as they could while not realising that MPs should not mind if he sometimes defended himself.

Clearly annoyed at the continued complaints and the lack of response to his noble gesture, the Prime Minister then declared that the experiment was at an end as far as he was concerned and that the House would be returned to the bad old days when the success of a question was judged by the depths of its obscurity.

Atomic waste tests planned in Northumberland

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority said yesterday that it was considering making an application to carry out test drilling in Northumberland to study the properties of granite for waste disposal. Tests would be part of an EEC research programme, with other countries studying clay and salt formations.

The area being considered is Chillingham Forest. The authority said the nature and objectives of the programme would be explained to Northumberland County Council next Thursday.

Another granite formation to be investigated is in the Carrick Forest area of south-west Scotland. The authority expects to submit a planning application to drill there within a few weeks. Other studies of granite are being made in south-west England.

Television 'should give warnings about violence'

Warnings should be shown on television screens before programmes with a violent content are shown, Mr Whitelaw, opposition spokesman on home affairs, said yesterday. The warnings, he said, should also be carried in *Radio Times* and *TV Times*.

Recalling that the independent television experiment on those lines had been found helpful and useful, he added: "I should hope there was at least the need to take action to warn people about programmes and that there should be some symbols indicating the amount of violence in them."

Mr Whitelaw, speaking to the Broadcasting Press Guild, said he thought there was a relationship between violence on television and violence in the country as a whole, particularly among young people. "If

we as adults take a very relaxed view of violence then I think the children will feel themselves that this does not matter and will be rather encouraged."

But television, he continued, played a minor part compared with the whole basis of our society. Speaking of the juvenile court system and the type of sentences now being passed, he said: "We have got to think very seriously about the fact that a lot of young people are drifting right through the system and at no stage are they being deterred from continuing a life of crime: somehow we have got to break that. This is seen as a controversial view, but with all the efforts of non-custodial sentences we have also to consider whether alongside secure accommodation, we have not got to give short, sharp shock treatment."

Home Secretary urges firemen to reconsider strike action: plans to protect life and property

A call to the Fire Brigades Union and its members to think again about the strike proposed for next Monday was made by Mr. Marilyn Ross, the Home Secretary, in a speech in the House of Commons.

He could understand, he said, that firemen felt they had waited a long time but the discussions on a pay formula and on reduction of the work week would not great and long-looked for promise for the future.

I ask the members of this union to wish the benefits to them of the strike, and to recognize the value to the community. I want to see discussions of that kind and a reduction in the working week pressed forward. I can understand the workers' feeling that they have waited a long time. None the less, I ask them, to be patient and reasonable. Although withdrawal of labour is not literally mean death, he has no alternative but to stand firm, and the House must support him in this. It is a matter to the history of the nation of the Empire.

met representatives of the employers' side of the National Joint Council for local authorities fire brigades and of the union side.

We reaffirmed the statement that there could be no question of any immediate increase of 10 per cent in earnings as the table Firemen will share in the benefits that will come to all of us from the maintenance of the guidelines on

Mr Rees—Whatever is going to happen is ineluctable. At the end of the day I do not believe that despite what they said at the conference, people are going to be any more than 50c. That is not the fire service I have known

The discussions on a pay formula and on reduction of the working week hold out for the first time the possibility of a compromise for the future. I ask the members of the union to weigh the benefits to them of what is on offer and the cost to them of not accepting it.

We welcomed the fact that the National Joint Council was seeking to bring the Government to the negotiating table by using the procedures to achieve this. We said again that the Government would closely follow discussion on this subject in the House of Commons. We said that the House of Commons would support any

Mr. Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walston, Lab.)—It is better to see the Government's position on the telephone system in a more continuous session rather than strike. Even at this late hour I ask Mr. Rees to intervene, intervene and intervene, until a settlement is reached.

Mr Rees—There are a number of aspects, where the police, with board, and so on. It may vary in different parts of the country. I shall be issuing a circular to authorities about this.

I have a Singapore centre in

could begin before then. The Government's duty to do all that it can to protect life and property in the situation which faces us. We have made preparations to this end. Plans have been prepared for the evacuation of the island and by fire authorities, with the Home Office. It is the local authorities who are responsible. It is not a modal responsibility, and it is not a joint responsibility. We expect that all of this will be attended to if in different ways. Mr James Sillars (South Ayrshire, Conservative) (Barnhill, 10.15.74) took into account not only the firemen and policemen, but the people of the community as a whole. The dangers of what would happen if one cave in are far greater to the community. Sir John Edey (Bournemouth, Conservative) (Bournemouth, 10.15.74) said that the Government had to be aware of the fact that the people of the community were not only the people of the community, but the people of the community.

Services and will be ready to put into operation on November 14. The fire department's fire trucks are being made available to fire authorities and Servicemen are being specially trained to man them. With this assistance the fire problem will be a better one than it is now.

His commitments to the police demonstrates that not only is the 10 cc. horn a simple statutory, but also flexible. Will he recognize that firemen are a very special case? They have to go into buildings which everyone else is desperately avoiding. Will he recognize that

Mr. Rees—in any discussions I have had the question of 10 per cent now stands the same in all cases. At their conference this year the hotel owners agreed that the thing else was a reduction in the 48-hour week. What we have said locally should play their part without laying down any hard and fast terms. It may be in old people's minds that a reduction in the rate for an extra guard during this period. Local authorities will play their part in this.

London to get 25 more court rooms

in effort to reduce trial delays

of violent offences, Lord Elysing-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, said when home affairs were discussed in the House of Commons debate on the Queen's Speech.

He said strenuous efforts had been made to speed up trials, but Lord Wiggod (L) said any press charges should make clear that the Government were anxious to get the closed shop in industrial terms in ordinary industries, there was no room for a closed shop in journalism. If introduction would be made in the ordinary industries, it would be to disregard the reasonable man who worked in industry for the service of the community, merely because they carried on doing their job and were not holding innocent people to ransom.

Waiting times between the date of the summons for cases involving the deaths of 10,000 in 1974 to no less than 16,000 in September this year. Delays and potential injustice resulting from delays were an inescapable consequence of this system.

of committal to trial, and the trial itself varied from about nine weeks in the case of a simple assault to a year or more in the case of a murder. It was also difficult to get a jury empanelled, to an average of 29 weeks in London. Those people in custody in London were likely to wait an average of 15 weeks before trial.

Of Trade Union pressures. We expected that the situation would have their rights of access fully recognized. It is only if we find the Secretary of State laying a charter on them, that we can say they would be possible to deal with.

The End of Newspaper as a medium. The expectation for improved conditions was disappointed. It was inevitable the pressure for the eng-

tion proposed. The judgment of the people in this regard was sound and the Government's proposals were unsound.

the expectation for improved conditions was disappointed. It was inevitable the pressure for the eng-

There was some evidence that the alarming rate of increase in cases coming forward might be diminishing, but the number of deaths between 1972 and 1976 by more than one third.

He continued to play new cards on the table. He said that the speech, laid some people believed that whooping cough vaccine should be withdrawn because they thought the existing strain of the virus was more virulent than 25 years ago, and because the vaccine did not give absolute immunity.

Lord Mackie of Benshie (L) said the Scotland Bill was a great improvement on the last one. It provided for a balanced approach to the people of Scotland. The Scot-

ing of the union would build up and could become irresistible.

Others argued that the vaccine gave protection and the risks to a few were outweighed by the benefits for the many. He thought the vaccine should be withdrawn pending discovery of a suitable strain or virus, and the Government should give a grant to the University of Edinburgh assembly would send representatives of some sort in Brussels to discuss the situation and the needs of Scotland and could put their case far better than the Westminster government.

London. There are still significant relationships between crime and social deprivation. It was therefore good to note in the Queen's Speech that a Bill would be introduced to increase the powers of the police in these areas. The condition in some of the

inner urban areas had been aggravated by the considerable influx of Negroes. The Government was not to be disturbed by the fact that the "disturbing advantage" had been taken of these circumstances by the National Front.

There was a great need to foster racial harmony and to ensure that the Government was not seen to be

considering.

Lord Chrimps, in a maiden speech, said that the Government should set a lead in being prepared in all reasonable cases to consider ex-prisoners for employment. It was only fair to say that the Government had to go some way to ensure that the employment of ex-prisoners was not seen to be a reward for crime.

There was no room for a measure of detestation, in the right manner and in the right spirit, to be shown to the over-hasty way, hoping that at the next general election, a number of seats which are traditionally held by the Conservative Party could be won by persuasion would be considered to be so

In the British Isles and to do so by beginning with the principle that all men and women whatever their colour who were citizens in this country should have equal rights under the law.

Concerning legislation for the

tion, or of most immediate interest was the reform of parliamentary procedure. The Government intended to introduce legislation which would implement the Law Commission's recommendations on how this should be done.

Lord Foxham, for the Opposition, said fear over law and order was one of the most fundamental problems facing the nation.

We call ourselves a compassionate society (he said). The fact that we have a Broadcasting Bill which is an attempt to block out the televising of the Queen's coronation by the Queen was more than an outrage and more than sabotage.

It was an action which amounted to a declaration of war on the people. Such measures were a gross insult.

Increasing crime was a problem of mounting concern to the British people in just the same way as it was throughout the rest of Europe and the United States unless it

and a frightened society. It is time we stopped procrastinating ourselves on being what we manifestly are not.

When two hundred million people throughout the world demand the blessing of war, the

The State opening of Parliament on television can anyone deny, however soon passed the case may be, that is anyone who has seen the television screen. Lord Eglar (Lab) said they should be trying to do away with boundaries in Britain instead of facing two Bills presenting them in parliamentary language with must be regarded as a blow to the House of Commons. In this situation the police deserved and required the firm and resolute backing of both Parliament and the people.

House adjourned, 8.7 pm.

[illegible]

was going to permit a return to the area of the footpath then they might find that in the interest of

OVERSEAS

Carter attempt to win support for energy cuts fails to impress

From David Cross
Washington, Nov 9

President Carter's latest attempt to rally the public and, more important, sceptical members of Congress, behind his flagging energy programme has not had its intended impact.

Most members of Congress, who watched Mr Carter's 20-minute televised address to the nation last night from the White House or their homes, probably agreed with the assessment of Mr Thomas Ashby, a Democrat Congress member from Ohio. "He told reporters that the speech 'has not changed anything'."

The message conveyed by Mr Carter was essentially a reiteration of everything he has said since he unveiled his proposals in the spring with the dramatic announcement that the fight against energy waste was "the moral equivalent of war".

The only noticeable difference from his recent lectures was a significant toning down of criticism of the oil and gas industry, which he accused last month of attempting "the biggest rip-off in history".

Mr Carter made it clear that he would sign energy legislation only if it were fair, if it helped energy conservation and encouraged development of new fuel sources.

The long debate was not a contest of strength between the President and Congress, nor between the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"What is being measured is the strength and will of our nation, whether we can acknowledge a threat and meet a serious challenge together."

This was a reference to the entirely different versions of his original energy proposals initially approved by the two houses of Congress. The lower

house generally went along with Mr Carter's ideas, whereas the Senate rejected most of them.

Members of both houses are now trying to reconcile their differences and it is this process which Mr Carter is seeking to influence. If yesterday's tortuous session of the special joint committee is any yardstick, any compromise package will take many weeks to complete.

Each of yesterday's meetings was devoted to procedural questions and yet more explanations from experts on the likely impact of sections of the energy programme. Only slightly over half the members of the committee bothered to turn up for the morning session.

Mr Carter has been criticized in recent weeks for failing to devote enough of his time to wooing sceptics in Congress. But since his recent lectures was a significant toning down of criticism of the oil and gas industry, which he accused last month of attempting "the biggest rip-off in history".

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Victory for Democrats 'unpopular' governor

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 9

Local issues invariably dominate local elections in the United States more than they do in Britain, so it is often misleading to try to discern any national trend. Yet after the clutch of state and city elections across the country yesterday, the Democrats have more cause for satisfaction than the Republicans.

The most notable Democrat triumph was in the election for Governor of New Jersey where Mr Brendan Byrne, the sitting Governor, scored a substantial victory over Mr Raymond Bateman, the Republican.

Only a few months ago Mr Byrne had the reputation of being the most unpopular Governor in the country, and long odds would have been offered against his staying in office.

The introduction of a state income tax had been his most controversial move and Mr Bateman had promised to withdraw it. In the event, though, New Jersey voters decided that Mr Bateman's alternative proposals for raising revenue were more suspect than what they had already.

The only other state election was in Virginia, where the Republicans kept control in the person of Mr John Dalton, the Lieutenant-Governor. The position vacated by Mr Dalton, however, was won by a Democrat, Mr Charles Robb, son-in-law of the late President Lyndon Johnson.

The Democrats kept control of the legislative assemblies in both Virginia and New Jersey.

Republicans made a particularly poor showing in New York, where Mr Edward Koch, the Democratic victor, and Mr Mario Cuomo, the Liberal Party contender won 92 per cent of the vote between them. Mr Roy Goodman, the official Republican, gained only 4 per cent, just beating the Conservative, Mr Barry Farber.

Democrats maintained their hold on most of the other 37 cities. In Cleveland, Ohio, the Republican Mayor, Mr Ralph Perk, had already been beaten in the primary election. The new resident at City Hall will be Mr Dennis Kucinich, an unofficial Democrat who narrowly defeated the official party candidate. At 31, he will be the city's youngest mayor.

The most spectacular success came in Raleigh, North Carolina, where Mr Jesse Helms, the Republican, lost his seat. Mr Helms, who was 73, a retired librarian who campaigned on an environmentalist platform, lost to the sitting Mayor, Mr Yves Cogswell, who had made her as a "little old lady in tennis shoes". After that, she took to campaigning with tennis shoes "draped around her neck".

Strikes force Argentine rethink

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires, Nov 9

Argentina's recent strike wave was the strongest labour challenge yet faced by the military Government. For a few days there was confusion and crisis in the air. Strikes are banned, but it looked as if they were becoming widespread.

The strikes halted the railways, the capital's commuter network and its underground train system. Postal workers, dockers, airline pilots and other state employees were affected.

For a while there was a climate of confusion. Every Argentine remembers that the 1969 riots in Córdoba which helped to bring down General Juan Carlos Onganía, were the result of austerity policies imposed on those of the present Government.

The fears proved exaggerated. The crisis subsided quite peacefully after eight days once the military leaders showed their muscle. Indeed, the Government may have emerged strengthened, although it will have to think hard now about putting the labour movement on a legal footing.

The strikes surprised nobody, although their spontaneity was impressive. They began when 40 railway signallers walked out demanding higher pay, and then snowballed. There was no organization behind them because trade union activities remain banned.

Dr Martínez de Hoz obtained President Jorge Rafael Videla's

endorsement, and at the height of the strikes issued a communiqué which had the men returning to work within hours.

He announced average pay increases of 3 per cent, declared that this was all the state could afford, and ordered state corporations to start applying the industrial security law.

This left many workers with only about \$80 a month, far less than their demands.

A key factor in persuading the men to return was Dr Martínez de Hoz's explanation: "These decisions are not liable to any negotiation or variation because of the budget situation of the state, which lacks any possibility of granting further benefits without resorting to uncontrolled monetary issue which would harm the entire population and frustrate efforts made until now to improve the country's economy."

The minister's problem is that while maintaining full employment he is fighting to reduce inflation and the budget deficit. Most state corporations are overstaffed and bankrupt; the railways lose \$700,000 daily, and the long-term strategy is to force men into the better-paid, more productive private sector.

As the economy improves under his continued guidance, Dr Martínez de Hoz promises corresponding wage improvements; his forecast is that they will double in three years.

Mr Sadat is ready to go to Knesset itself

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Nov 9

President Sadat said today that he was so anxious to open peace negotiations with Israel that he would even go to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament.

Speaking at the opening of the Egyptian National Assembly, the President said he would agree to any procedural demand Israel might put forward for the Geneva conference, "because when I get to Geneva neither Israel nor the world will be able to stop me from demanding the legitimate right of the Palestinians to establish their independent homeland."

He was ready, he added, to go to the furthest corner of the world if this would safeguard one soldier or officer from being killed, or even

wounded. Israel will be surprised when it hears me say before you that I am ready to go to the Knesset itself to discuss with them."

The emotional statement, which came near the end of a two-and-a-half-hour speech dealing with both domestic and foreign affairs, was greeted with loud applause.

Mr Sadat said he had spoken by telephone to President Assad of Syria just before coming to the assembly, and he agreed that I should visit him after I have attended to certain pressing issues. "Misraut and lack of communication between Egypt and Syria have been making stumbling blocks in recent Arab efforts to achieve a united position in preparations for the Geneva peace conference."

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Ottawa tries to play down Paris-Quebec links

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, Nov 9

A complicated game of diplomatic one-upmanship seems to be taking shape in relations between Canada and France following the lavish reception given to Mr René Lévesque, Premier of Quebec, in Paris last week.

The Canadian Government, which uneasily about what the events in Paris portend in respect to future French policy towards Quebec, is doing its best to play down the affair.

Questioned about it in the Commons yesterday, Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, simply said that the role of Quebec French investment is more important than French medals.

The allusion was to President Giscard d'Estaing's action in awarding the French Legion of Honour to Mr Lévesque at the Chateau de Versailles last Thursday. The ceremony was one of the high points of an action-filled, three-day visit to France by the Quebec Premier, whose Parti Québécois Government wants to take the French-speaking province out of the Canadian Confederation.

Mr Jean Chrétien, the Finance Minister, who was acting as Prime Minister in Mr Trudeau's absence, told a questioner that relations between France and Canada were "excellent".

He made no response to a suggestion by a Government backbencher that Canada should invite the leaders of the separatist parties of Corsica and Brittany to Ottawa, and encourage them to destroy the "integral sovereignty" of France.

Mr Chrétien and the Prime Minister were reflecting the thinking of the External Affairs Department that there is no dramatic incident out of the diplomatic incident out of the attentions showered on Mr Lévesque, and thereby risk a rift with France at this point.

Mr Donald Jamieson, the External Affairs Minister, told reporters that Canada will seek clarification of President Giscard d'Estaing's references to French support for Quebec, and the planned exchange of meetings between Mr Lévesque and Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister.

At the same time, the Can-

adian authorities appear satisfied, after studying a report from Mr Gerard Pelletier, Canadian Ambassador in Paris, that however warm the welcome accorded Mr Lévesque it was not such as would be given to a head of state.

Despite the Government's resolute turning of the other cheek, the Lévesque visit has clearly ushered in a new phase in relations between Canada and France, characterized by growing Canadian doubts about French intentions regarding support for Quebec separatism.

Significantly, the very day Mr Lévesque arrived home to an emotional welcome from thousands of cheering Quebecers at Montreal airport, Mr Jean-Pierre Goyer, the Canadian Supply and Services Minister, set out on a week's visit to French-speaking Africa.

Mr Goyer, appointed adviser on Francophone affairs to Mr Jamieson earlier this year, is visiting Upper Volta, Zaire and Gabon. It is his third visit to French-speaking Africa in five months.

Part of his assignment is to help lay the groundwork for a French-speaking Commonwealth, more or less modelled



Victory message from Mr Koch to his supporters: "Tonight we've arrived."

New York picks bachelor mayor

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 9

In the competitive field of New York politics, the single quality most required for success is opportunism. It is a quality that has characterized Mr Edward Koch's political career, which reached its zenith last night when, defeating Mr Mario Cuomo, he was elected as the city's first bachelor mayor for exactly a hundred years.

In 1963 Mr Koch, spotting early the liberal and anti-organized labor support for the death penalty, in response to the fears of many New York residents for their safety. Law and order was a strong theme of his election campaign. He has also promised to take a tough line with the city trade unions, saying that he will stand out against excessive wage demands and force redundancies in departments which are over-manned.

On other issues, however, he has maintained a more populist position. He is a convinced supporter of public transport, a frequent user of the declining

subway system. His mayoral car will be his first, he says, since 1965 when his last car wore out.

His support for public transport is in keeping with the life style which he maintains in his rent-controlled bachelor flat in Manhattan. He says he will hold on to the lease of the flat, although with the job of mayor goes the right to live in Gracie Mansion, a splendid colonial-style building by the East river.

"I want to remember what it is like to ride the elevator and ride the subway," he explained in a television interview yesterday. "I want to remember how to take my own shirts to the laundromat. It's only when you're running along the platform to jump into the last car that you can know how bad the subway service is."

A cynic could, if he were so minded, detect a touch of opportunism here, too. This insistence on maintaining links with the people is a fashionable attitude among politicians just now, having been used to good effect by such as President Carter and Governor Brown of California.

Pan Am on brink of quitting IATA

From Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 9

Pan American World Airways, the leading United States airline, is seriously considering whether to resign from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), according to reports circulating at the association's annual meeting.

The reports are backed up by Pan American executives here who confirm that the airline is conducting a review, expected to last two months, of the advantages and disadvantages of belonging to the 110 air lines representing 85 countries.

Pan American's dissatisfaction with IATA over current fares policies is underlined by the fact that Mr William Seawell, the airline's chairman and chief executive officer, has resigned from the Madrid meeting.

The resignation by such an influential airline as Pan American would have a disastrous effect on the future of IATA. Pan American is said to be deeply worried by IATA's public image as a high fare cartel because the airline wants to be known as an innovator of cheap fares.

Reports circulating among the delegates here indicate that Pan American may be prepared to stay in the association if fare-making rules and commercial matters only.

IATA took its revolutionary plan for restructuring its role a stage further here today by appointing a five-member committee to review existing fares procedures.

The committee has been told to report back by May, 1978, and its recommendations will be considered by a general meeting of the association in June next year.

Big American companies sued over unequal promotion prospects

From Michael Leason
New York, Nov 9

The publishers of the *Reader's Digest* last week became the latest large corporation to be forced by legal action to treat their women employees better. In an out-of-court settlement, they agreed to pay \$1.5m (£830,000) to 2,600 present and former female employees to make their salaries comparable with men's. The company also undertook to appoint more women to senior editorial positions.

Since the early 1970s, a series of successful suits of this nature have been brought against corporations, many of them in the communications business. In 1972, *Newsweek* magazine was made to appoint more women to senior editorial positions, and in 1973, *Time* magazine was forced to promote women to jobs which used to be the preserve of men. Earlier this year the National Broadcasting Company, one of the three national television networks, settled for \$2m in payments to 2,600 women. A similar action

is under way against *The New York Times*.

In most of these cases the defendants have been represented by the Employment Rights Project at Columbia Law School in New York. This is a team of four lawyers (two women and two men) created in 1971 with Federal funding and with the dual role of teaching students about this aspect of the law and of representing clients in suitable cases.

I went to Columbia and found half the team, Mrs Harriet Rabb and Mr Howard Rubin, jubilant over their victory in the *Reader's Digest* case. Why, I asked, had the company settled out of court? "Because we were going to murder them," Mrs Rabb declared trenchantly. The history of the case is fairly typical. In 1973 a group of women employees met and drew up what they called a "white paper" to present to the management. It was not, according to Mrs Rabb, a list of grievances, but an attempt to open a dialogue on the treatment of women by the company. The management, however, made no response. So the women approached the Employment Rights Project and initiated legal action.

If they had only responded originally they might have avoided a four-year suit," Mrs Rabb said. They never explained throughout the action why they made no response.

She believes that the eventual decision of *Reader's Digest* to settle out of court was not primarily to save the expense of a long trial, but to avoid the embarrassment of having their employment practices exposed in open court. As representatives of the plaintiffs, the project's lawyers had access to all the relevant records, including the salaries of the firm's highest-paid people.

"And there were some highly embarrassing memos," Mrs Rabb continued, explaining why certain women had been hired because she would look decorative in the front office, and another as a sup-gap until a suitable man could be found. They would rather close the book and move on.

Although there are probably several hundred sex discrimination suits being contested in the United States at this moment, Mrs Rabb and Mr Rubin believe that the success of recent actions is helping to improve the attitude of management

all over America to employing and promoting women. They are particularly proud of their accomplishment with the large New York law firms.

"Of all the industries brought on behalf of women, the industry that has shown the biggest response to pressure is the law industry in the big cities," she said. In the past few years far more women have reached top level positions.

The project also handles cases of race discrimination. In this, their most notable success came in a suit against the New York Education Department, which was forced to appoint more black and Puerto Rican as school principals and vice-principals.

Their most important outstanding case is back in the field of sex discrimination, and is against *The New York Times*. There is no sign as yet that there will be an out-of-court settlement here. In Mrs Rabb's office is a four-drawer filing cabinet stuffed with material which, in her view, supports the contention that the paper discriminates against women in salaries and in appointments.

Injured Korchnoi has to put off Spassky match

Frauenfeld, Switzerland, Nov 9.—Viktor Korchnoi, the Russian chess grandmaster, was injured in a road accident last night and will have to postpone his world championship semi-final against Boris Spassky.

Korchnoi, aged 46, who defected from Russia last year, suffered a broken hand and other minor injuries when a Fiat car he was travelling in collided with a Swiss Army vehicle.

The semi-final match against Spassky was to have started in Belgrade on November 15. Swiss chess officials said the two men's managers were discussing another date.—UPI.

Eurocommunism stronger now, Señor Carrillo says

From Our Correspondent
Belgrade, Nov 9

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist Party leader, today said Eurocommunism was stronger now than ever before but denied assertions that, in the wake of last week's Moscow incident over a speech, there were differences between himself and the Soviet party.

Señor Carrillo, who arrived here yesterday for talks with Yugoslav Communist Party leaders, made a point of emphasizing that Eurocommunism became even more of a reality after the incident in Moscow which, he said, had surprised everybody there.

Detained editors set free in Pakistan

Lahore, Nov 9.—Three Pakistani editors have been released after being held in jail under a martial law regulation which bars publication of material objectionable to the military administration.

Those released are Alhaj Hasan Qureshi, editor of the monthly magazine *Urdu Digest*, and the weekly journal *Zindagi*; Nasir Naji, Lahore editor of the *Daily Hailat*, and Syed Badrudin, editor of *Muskan*.

Mr Qureshi was known for his opposition to Mr Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, while the publications of the other two men supported Mr Bhutto's Peoples Party.—Reuter.

Janneau Armagnac is an ordinary French brandy like Pâté de Foie Gras Truffé is an ordinary French sandwich-spread

Janneau
Grand Armagnac
Ordinaire it is not



100

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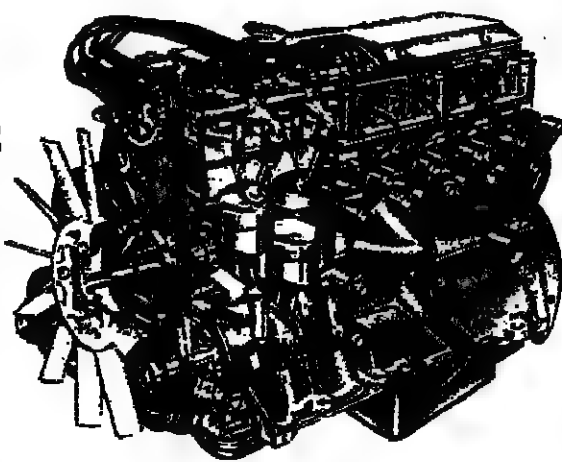
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The new Rover 2300

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The new Rovers share the same, aerodynamic, fuel-conscious styling as the 3500. Inside, there's the same astounding roominess and equally meticulous level of appointment. Rover's award-winning attention to safety is there, from general design to smallest detail.

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The Rover 3500 opened a new world of motoring. The new Rover 2300 and 2600 open that world a lot wider. See them at your Rover showroom.



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*Motor magazine. Car tested 2600 manual.

Ronald Butt

The rate for the job: who should get what, and why

Who and what is a special case? For what reasons should premium pay be given? For danger and for exceptional skill certainly. Incentive and just appreciation demand no less. But how much bonus, so to speak, should be added for unpleasantness, monotony or sheer boredom?

Certainly, the fireman look, by any account, underpaid and most of us understand their anger (even if we cannot yet bring ourselves to think that they will in the end be mastered by it). For which of us would do their job for the money they get—or indeed, for any money?

Personally, I could not scale the heights that they must and keep my head, and down a mine I should suffer from claustrophobia.

My nerve would also probably go if I had to work all day near a blast furnace, and the decibels of most factories would unsettle my reason and I should suffer the monotony of the assembly line with frayed nerves.

But then, I also must "people" practically every day who say: "I simply couldn't stand the pressure and the deadline. I have to try to explain that but for the deadline production would be put off and off—waiting for the perfect way of saying the thing one is no longer quite sure one wants to say, and that the problems (with which I won't bore you now) are really quite different."

Still, a job that is intolerable to one man is bearable, or even perhaps attractive, to another. So perhaps, after all, it is not altogether easy to calculate additions to pay for unpleasantness or deductions for pleasantness.

We would, however, all agree that a premium should be paid for a special sort of responsibility, whether it is the Prime Minister's, the chairman of ICI's or that of the surgeon who holds your life in his hands. And

here, after all, another consideration comes into it. Their high pay is not simply to provide an incentive to do the job but to create living conditions which take some of the strain out of life, since a tired Prime Minister obliged to catch the No 11 bus could be an unnecessarily incompetent Prime Minister (and how much more if he had to catch the No 17 bus), while the importance of not having a tense and exhausted top surgeon who is seriously worried about the mortgage explains itself.

But, again, there is a different sort of responsibility to be taken into account: the kind that goes with the possession of such great industrial strength that it cannot (or almost cannot) be used. The miners ultimately have such strength, though we could carry on for a bit without them. The electrical workers have it immediately, at the turn of a switch.

That is why the electrical workers finally refrained from exerting their strength under Mr Heath's government and it is why (because it may mean life and death for many ordinary citizens) we hope they will refrain now. But other pressures than civic responsibility come into it.

It used to be argued, when we agonized over these matters in Mr Heath's time, that the reason why the miners could stick it out, and the electrical workers could not, was that when the miners went home they only met other miners and they were cocooned in their own little world of mutual reassurance where their seldom met with the general public.

But the electricity worker, it was said, went home to neighbours doing very different jobs, who felt themselves the victims of any electrical irresponsibility. The consensus of fellow-citizens' rage, and contempt for destructive action was therefore (on this argument) more than the electricity workers could bear—which

also made their resistance weaker than the miners.

Whatever truth there is in that, the question of who should get what would be hard to reduce to a few formulae, even in the smoothest and most prosperous of times, and it is harder still in the backwash of a flat rate incomes policy which has distorted even the rough and ready differentials that are ordinarily created by supply and demand.

And so, inevitably, the old idea is beginning to emerge that perhaps some sort of incomes board could do the trick of deciding who, with justice, should get what.

But this is where we were when Mr Aubrey Jones and the Prices and Incomes Board left the scene at the end of the previous Labour Government in 1970. The idea of the just wage was very fashionable at the time and it was the business of the PIB (dutifully consulting all concerned, naturally) to snatch this elusive concept from the air and apply it, with the consent of all.

However, Mr Jones himself had been hearing the conclusion that this approach should not be restricted only to what we ordinarily think of as unionized labour. It ought to be applied to "top jobs" as well and, indeed, the PIB issued a paper on the subject.

I also remember Mr Jones saying, on one occasion, that we ought perhaps at least to see what lessons could be learnt from Czechoslovakia where a total system of job evaluation existed. And there, of course, you have the answer. I do not for a moment doubt that you can impose a total policy for incomes distribution if you can back it up with the power of an arbitrary political system in which the unions are an organ of the state, wages policy can be dictated, and labour can be directed and drafted, if need be. It would,

life being what it is, be a system with more "real" wages beneath than on the surface.

The chairman of ICI (or whatever he would be called) might get less than now on paper, and so (perhaps) would the Prime Minister and the chief bureaucrats. But what they lost in open pay, they would make up in fringe benefits even more concealed than those that operate in our own society—the special accommodation, particular facilities, access to scarce consumer goods, and so on. In all societies, power contrives to take its own reward.

No doubt it would be possible to arrive at a concept of who should get what, but I doubt if this could be based on everyone's freely given agreement. It would have to be imposed. So, in the end, what would be the real validity (in terms of "justice") of a pattern of wage distribution reached (even though with due consultation) in a committee room, and imposed by the force of the state? Precious little.

It is precisely the distortions of a flat rate incomes policy on differentials, including the fireman's, the miners' and those of the police, that have bred the present discontent. The lesson to be drawn from this is surely that, in the end, you have to pay what you need to pay to get the job done, and attract enough men to do it in reasonable contentment, and you are probably then paying as near the "just" wage as is possible. In other words, you are paying the market rate.

This can never produce a final and perfect answer. It will produce frequent adjustments because people's ideas of what they will do, and how much they will do it for, change. And of course, such a method is a huge challenge to the financial rectitude of a government,

which holds the purse strings in key monopoly industries.

It means that if the Government has to pay what seems to be an exorbitant wage to get a job done, it must see that the price of the product, and not the public purse, bears the consequences—even if the price has to be raised to the point at which the product is in danger of being priced out of the market.

If those who make wage demands know this—and this is the proper area of discussion between government, managers and employees—they will temper their behaviour accordingly. In the end, no incomes board can be a substitute for a free market and free bargaining, collective or individual, in wages, and for an honest, financial policy in government. We ought not to have to learn that lesson all over again.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, is entitled to criticize as strongly as he likes the argument of my article (October 27) on racial litigiousness. It is not entitled to allege that I "distort and mislead", and base this allegation on a suggestion that I said what I did not say.

He states in his article of November 4 that I have "got the law wrong" because the Attorney General and not the CRE is responsible for prosecutions for racial incitement. I am aware of this and nowhere did I say the contrary. Unless Mr Lane has chosen to construe the joke about Dr Johnson and a mythical eighteenth century CRE as implying this.

Secondly, he suggests that I said that the CRE was "obliged" to take up every individual complaint of discrimination. In fact I said not that the CRE was "obliged" to take up any case but that it was "entitled" to do so, which it is.

The facts that cry out for a wider police inquiry

The scope of the inquiry by Lord Edmund-Davies into

police pay and conditions is too limited. As part of their case, the police refer back to the analysis and findings of the last Royal Commission on the Police in 1960 which had, among its tasks, to examine "the broad principles which should govern the remuneration of the constable."

The commission went on to recommend in 1962 reforms in the exercise of control over the police, in the handling of complaints against them, and in their relationship with the public. The incidents which led to the appointment of the commission were important and disquieting, but issues that have arisen since are hardly less so.

They include the uncovering of deep-seated corruption in the Metropolitan Police, the accountability of the force and whether it should be inspected, like any other, by HM Inspectors of Constabulary.

Questions of principle are also raised by the operation of the Public Order Act, the increasing violence of demonstration, the threat of terrorism and the techniques developed by the police to deal with them. Above all, how are these changes affecting the distinctive and much admired nature of the British police and their relations with the public?

As in 1960, the pay issue is part of a much deeper seismic disturbance. The police are best understood as craftsmen. They came into being in the last century, which also saw the expansion of the docks, coal industry and railways. They, too, have suffered industrial friction as modernization has answered demands for increased productivity.

Like them, the police service has its own craft traditions and practices. A senior officer in Birmingham is called the "gaffer"; in the Metropolitan, the "guy" or "guy" all such jobs, police work has developed its own jargon. The kinky theft of women's underwear from clothes lines is known in Scotland as a "snow-drip". While social reforms are understood of the right of hippies and tramps to drop out of society, the police term for them is "slags". A CID officer who cuts corners through regulations is known as a "swift".

"Practical coppers" are much admired because they are good at "feeling coppers". If arrest is resisted, officers have to be "sprayed" forcibly. On the other hand, gradations of the special constable at the Police College, Bramshill, are sometimes called "five-day woodies".

Like many a craft, the tricks of a policeman's trade may be handed down literally from father to son. The police are quite tribal in character. With the Police of Police Review, I traced one family's continuous service back to 1840. I also retraced the steps of a reporter who wrote a feature in the first issue of *The Strand* Magazine in 1891 about the river police. The Thames Division of the Metropolitan Force still had a blue lamp outside its Wapping headquarters; now as then policemen played billiards upstairs; Waterloo Bridge, known in 1891 as the "Bridge of Sighs", is still a favourite place for suicides; and whereas news then came over the telegraph of a prize fight at Harrogate, I heard a radio message about a punch-up outside a public house in South London.

Two changes threaten the corpus of knowledge and tradition that has been handed down since Victorian times. One is the creation of massive new police forces which, by

moving officers over greater distances, erodes their local knowledge. The second is the technological revolution.

Both changes are part of a tendency towards centralization and specialization. With the aid of computers, pocke-radios and greater mobility, the police service is developing an admirably quick response to trouble as it occurs. The events of the past few years, with a spate of bombings, kidnappings, hostage-taking and international terrorism, has demonstrated the need for it.

As wanted men can travel swiftly over long distances, it has become increasingly necessary for policemen to have quick access to information stored centrally.

The question is whether the craftsmanship of the police, on which their special and much prized relationship with the public depends, can survive this revolution. There are warning signs that, because the policeman has to respond more and more to calls on him as communications improve, he will have less opportunity to develop a close relationship with the public and to exercise with the aid of the knowledge he builds up, the greatest power a policeman has—of discretion.

Policemen say that because of the number of experienced officers leaving the force and the few that are available for the best, inexperienced officers are being forced into the front line. Moreover, the corpus of knowledge and experience in the police cannot so easily be passed on to them.

The quality of policing on the streets is also being diluted by the sale of manpower made by the number and variety of specialist squads. The need for specialist answers to special problems has always existed. But their development into more and more day-to-day police work means that the local policeman has less opportunity to see jobs through from beginning to end. He is becoming less of a craftsman and more of an assembly-line worker, doing his bit and passing the job on.

The development of a whole armoury of technology to aid policemen in fighting terrorism—listening devices, mini-cameras and the like—opened the possibility of their wider use. Radar traps are an example of a surveillance tool that has become commonplace. Mr G. W. R. Terry, Chief Constable of Sussex, performed a valuable service in allowing television to show new methods in action in a recent case, so stimulating debate about their use. Ground rules need to be worked out. Control over telephone tapping is a useful precedent, though there is unnecessary secrecy about the extent of its use.

Fortunately, a counter-revolution is also taking place. Some police forces are aware not only of the benefits of technology but also of the dangers of over-reliance upon it. They are acting to restore links with the community and invite its participation in crime prevention. There is no substitute for local knowledge of people by local policemen. Computers can never hope to replace this.

But that depends upon manpower, and manpower depends on pay. The issues are linked in a way that makes necessary an inquiry of deeper and wider scope than that Lord Edmund-Davies can manage.

Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Why a simple election is no longer enough for the war-weary Rhodesians

Salisbury

This week Rhodesia celebrates the twelfth anniversary of its Unilateral Declaration of Independence with the prospect of a constitutional settlement still apparently as distant as ever.

Lord Carver, the Resident Commissioner-designate, has been and gone without making any significant headway except that he managed to avoid outright rejection of the Anglo-American settlement proposals by either the Rhodesian Government or the Nationalist Patriotic Front organization.

But the gulf between the Government and the Front seems wider than ever. The Government still seems to be thinking in terms of an internal settlement once the present British plan has failed. Mr Joshua Nkomo, supposedly the more moderate of the Front's two leaders, has been talking in Moscow of creating a "genuinely socialist" Soviet-style state in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Meanwhile the war goes on, taking an increasing toll of black and white lives. Last month 233 "terms" (a derogatory term for black insurgents) were killed, the second highest monthly figure since the war began. The number of whites being killed is also rising. This, together with the in-

creasing number of whites leaving the country, is putting enormous strain on the European population.

Paradoxically, however, despite their failure of the various political leaders to narrow their differences, the potential for a settlement seems greater since UDI. For a start there has been a marked change in attitude among the nation's 260,000 whites. The majority now seem to be prepared to live under a moderate black government so long as there was a reasonable chance that law and order and general standards were maintained.

As one white farmer who had just returned from 28 days police reserve duty commented: "Two years ago my fellow reverends were just interested in killing terms. Now they would go along with a reasonable settlement tomorrow if one could be arranged."

This change in attitude is the result of a growing sense of war-weariness. This does not mean that defeatism is in the air. Far from it. The whites have the ability and the will to contain the guerrilla incursions for years if necessary. But the lengthy military call-ups (190 days a year for those aged 38 and under) coupled with the rising casualty rate are placing

increasing burdens both on family life and on the economic health of the nation.

The white business community in particular is being hit hard for a settlement. The economy has performed amazingly well in the face of sanctions, but now the strains of war is beginning to tell. Business leaders are convinced that if a settlement could be found which protected white interests then Rhodesia could quickly experience an economic bonanza.

The country's 6,000 white farmers who produce 80 per cent of Rhodesia's agricultural output are also ready for a settlement, according to the vice-president of the National Farmer's Union, Mr Dennis Norman, but they want assurances that any settlement will contain a clause regarding ownership of farms, the maintenance of infrastructure and, above all, the maintenance of law and order.

There is also a sense of war-weariness among the nation's 6,500,000 blacks, the people who are caught in the middle between the security forces who are "defending them" and the guerrillas who are "liberating" them.

The two main internally-based nationalist movements led by Bishop Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabucani Sithole both want to see a peaceful settlement—and by all accounts they command far wider support than does the Patriotic Front. However, the problem remains how to achieve this widespread desire for a settlement into tangible shape.

This is the task now facing Lord Carver and the British

Government, a task which is not made easier by Mr Smith's apparent desire to score cheap political points off Britain's latest negotiator.

It is now clear following Lord Carver's visit that there are two major obstacles impeding the success of the present British-American initiative. These are the security aspects of the British proposals and what could be termed the "external dimension" caused by the internationalisation of the Rhodesia problem.

Lord Carver was left in no doubt during his five-day stay in Rhodesia that the whole question of security was the key to the success of any settlement proposals. As he put it, Rhodesians wanted to know that law, order, peace and security would be maintained and that it would be for them to stay on after independence.

The question of security during the transitional period and after independence unites all white Rhodesians no matter what their political affiliations. If they are to remain in the country there must be a credible, disciplined force to maintain law and order. This, they believe, can only be assured by maintaining the existing Rhodesia Security Forces more or less intact.

The British settlement proposals call for the disbanding of certain Rhodesian military units and the establishment of a new Zimbabwe army "based on the liberation forces". While the new army is being created the United Nations and the police would be responsible for law and order.

The Patriotic Front, on the other hand, wants to see the

Rhodesian army completely disbanded and replaced by its own force. If that happened there would be a mass exodus of the Rhodesian police, the one which took place in neighbouring Mozambique.

White fears on this score are to a large extent shared by the generally-based nationalist movements. They have no guerrilla armies of their own and realise that the incorporation of significant numbers of ex-Rhodesian soldiers in a new Zimbabwe force would be greatly to their disadvantage. They therefore have a vested interest in seeing that the existing Rhodesian security forces, 80 per cent of which are black, rather than the "liberation armies" provide the basis of the new force.

Both the internal nationalists and Rhodesian whites fear that the British proposals as they now stand could lead to a Frim-type situation developing in Rhodesia in which the Patriotic Front, being the organisation with the guns, would impose itself on the country during the transitional period before independence.

The Rhodesian Government as well as the Muzorewa and Sithole nationalist organisations have accused Britain of paying too much heed to the Patriotic Front and its backers the "front line" presidents. This charge is perhaps justified, but Britain maintains that because the Rhodesian situation has become internationalized a settlement has got to be internationally acceptable.

The Rhodesian Patriotic Front has the backing of the "front line" states, the Organization of African Unity and the UN. It would be hard

to gain international approval for any settlement which did not involve the participation of the Front.

One possible way around this would be to divide Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front from that led by Mr Robert Mugabe and then encourage his return to Rhodesia to participate in elections. This is what Mr Smith tried to do when he went to see President Kaunda in Lusaka in September. The problem with this scenario is that Mr Nkomo is perfectly aware that he would not stand much chance of winning an election on his own. He would have to enter an alliance with one or other of the internally-based movements which neither of them seem prepared to consider at this stage.

For the moment the two patriotic front leaders "feel they are better off pursuing their joint struggle from outside. Their present alliance may be an uneasy one but it is all they have got. They seem unwilling to put at risk what they have gained on the battlefield in order to take part in an election which they would probably lose."

It is a tragic reflection on the way the Rhodesian problem has been allowed to deteriorate that at a time when the white Government has finally accepted the principle of majority rule it seems that a straight-forward test of opinion by means of a one-man-one-vote election is no longer all that is required.

Nicholas Ashford

"Sometimes," she reflected, "The most beautiful things in life are the simplest."

"Like smooth pebbles on a beach, or the first snow-flakes in winter"

"And watches you wind up by hand?" I teased.

She glanced at her wrist. And smiled, half to herself. "And Audemars Piguet watches," she murmured.

The plain golden face of her watch was relieved only by a delicately engraved rim, matching the smooth links of the bracelet which curved round her lightly tanned wrist, like a fine ribbon of solid gold.

In 18 carat gold, the watch had cost £2,240.

Which proves that, even though many beautiful things are simple, they often turn out to be rather expensive.

Audemars Piguet

This trade brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 67 Pall Mall, London EC1N 8RS.

Blowing the trumpet for our heroes

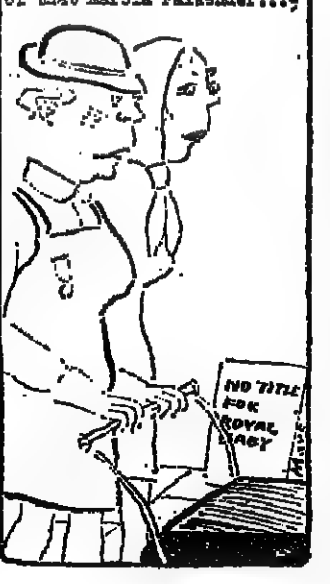
As a spectacle of male chauvinism it was unrivalled. My invitation to the Men of the Year Luncheon at the Savoy yesterday actually started with it: "For men only." Dishes of other sex, it is true, were permitted to meet the 11 hunky recipients of the accolade over drinks pre-arranged.

The actual luncheon, however, was all male and very ruggedly so. Not a long hair in sight (except for Steve Overt, who looked pretty bored anyway) when Richard Baker (who seems to grow smaller in proportion to his fame) rose to read the citations. The Duke of Devonshire, who is chairman of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (the organizers of the awards) looked on approvingly as the guest speakers trod boldly into masculine affairs.

Bill Clark, MP, the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, felt that in Britain we do not blow our trumpet sufficiently over our quota of heroes. Alec Bedser (who said "snap" when he spotted my MCC tie) obviously wished that certain cricketers were more heroic, but refused to discuss the matter. The other guest speaker was Steve Race.

Apart from Mr Overt, I was glad to see my friends Chris Baillieu and Mike Hart among the select 11. Rowing must be one of the hardest amateur sports in which to succeed and Mr Baillieu said that while they

did only they were friends of that Martin Falkender...



would defend their double sculls world title next year, it was hard to look much beyond that. Several of the Men of the Year won citations for acts of bravery—the more heroic the acts the less they seemed inclined to talk about them. The eleventh name on the list was that of Dr Frederick Sanger, the Nobel Prize winner. His work on the chemical structure of the entire genetic blueprint of living organisms baffled me. So I talked cricket to Ken Barrington and John Edrich, who both looked very fit.

Message from the Norwich union

Viscount Norwich must have been glad he took his mother to a lunch-time speaking engagement yesterday. Lady Diana Cooper was such an attentive listener and such a useful interlocutor. And, in that jaunty black-peaked sailor's cap, flying the pennant of the Royal Yacht Club, she lent an air of distinction to the top table (not, you understand, that it would otherwise have lacked it).

Lord Norwich was at the Royal Opera House—not on stage but in the Crush Bar, which is just as theatrical to talk about the National Trust to the Association of Women in Public Relations. As one of the tourist pollution—the 40 million fingers stroking the same bit of marble in the Acropolis. Some way would have to be found

Carry on spying

Lord Home of the Hirsel, former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary once had the reputation of being a "spy hunter". He was telling the Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council about it the other night.

"I was accused of talking about the Communist Party so much that people said it was counter-productive," Lord Home recalled. They said: "He sees Reds under the bed everywhere. But when I sacked 105 Russian spies in September 1971, they

Rocking the musical myth

Being a keen student of Angewandte affairs, and, as I am, to recite large chunks of *Murder in the Cathedral*, I booked an early ticket for the opening night at the Cockpit Theatre in north London of the latest rock musical, *Rock-a-bye* Beckett.

The authors, Rupert Gavin and Jeremy Jones have, however, put me straight by explaining that it is really about Tom Beckett, the rock star of the 'xnies, who rejects sex and

drugs and rock and roll and turns to religion while his manager tries to push him towards punk. Spawped in Cambridge, the story is set in the London fringe with the intention of assuaging cherished beliefs from T. S. Eliot to Tom Motown and from Johnny Rotten to the Rolling Stones. With its Canterbury setting, it should be fun as well as allegorical. Beckett runs for four nights only in the first instance.

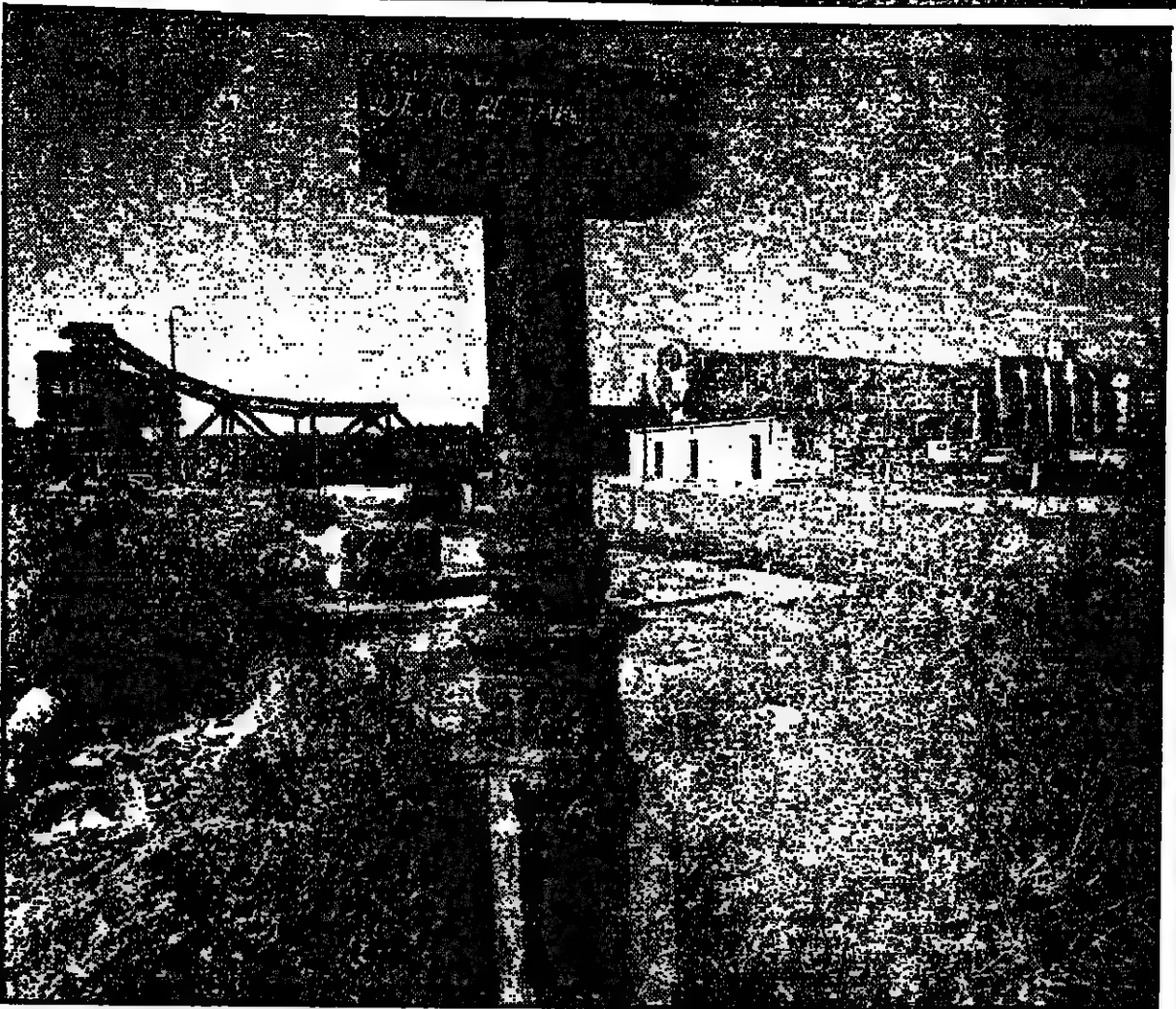
Not misguided? It was by a tortuous route, I learnt at the launching at the Mirabelle yesterday, that Egon Ronay's 1978 Guide came to be published in association with Penguin Books.

Mr Ronay was seeking a distributor in north America, and approached the Penguin subsidiary there, Viking Penguin. They asked John Birtch, marketing director of Penguin, what he knew of Ronay and he said: "wonderful" and followed it up.

Which is a little surprising, since at the time he was staying in a hotel in the Isle of Wight, chosen without reference to any guide, and conducted the negotiations throughout from a small back room among the clanking lifts.

Now if he had actually used the "wonderful" Ronay guide himself, he would have known to insist on a large seafront room, or to opt for the quiet cottage, annex 100 yards away. The annual review of *Republika* activities claims: "Ronay, has the most dense dealer network in Europe." *Republika* UK asked for "dense" to be changed to "extensive" for the next edition of the annual. It has been changed to "expensive".

In a grand, democratic gesture that I hope will not be undermined by Disrupted, Far Left, the programme for the London Film Festival which opens at the National Film Theatre next week lists everybody who will be doing their bit from controller to cleaners. The international complexion of the festival is underlined in the names of some of the exhibitors: the Yugoslav film *Group-Ten*, Erika Topalik, from *Maya and the Witch*, *Spies*. Also exhibiting (and not, as you might have expected, taking with the catering) are *Chief Cheese* and *Jeannette Balle*.



Derelict dockland in London.

London's dockland looks to the future

by Christopher Warman

Bringing life back to the derelict acres of London dockland has been a thorn in the flesh of the GLC as both public and private agencies have attempted, at a time of economic difficulty, to regenerate and redevelop that large area of east London.

A start has been made, and there have been conspicuous achievements, for example, at St Katherine Docks, but the difficulties remain. In the past few years the Government, the Labour-controlled GLC and the dockland boroughs have been laying the foundations for what would be, if it succeeds, one of the great changes in the face of the capital since the war.

The Conservatives took control of County Hall in May and they have the next four years in which to make their mark. Mr. Horace Cutler, now leader of the council, when in opposition used to berate the Labour leadership for its inactivity and declare that proper use of the 5,000 acres of dockland could remedy London's housing shortage.

Now in power he and his team are displaying signs of

determination to get things going.

In its term of office, Labour boasted of 1,000 new homes, 180 approvals out of 212 planning applications, a new industrial park at Beckton for 100,000 sq ft of industry, a 65m project with the Thames Water Authority to drain Beckton for housing and industry, and a development in Tower Hamlets to provide offices, warehousing, jobs and housing.

It saw a four-phase development up to the year 2000 costing £1,200m, with a new Underground line to dockland. "London and dockland are part of Europe's golden triangle which links Northern Italy, London and Germany's industrial belt in Belgium", Labour said in its election manifesto.

For Labour it was not to be, and the Conservatives assumed the mantle of regeneration, appointing Sir Hugh Wilson, architect and planner, as chairman of the docklands joint committee, made up of the GLC and the dockland boroughs.

In August, Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced the allocation of £17m for construction schemes in dockland under the partnership arrangements of the Government's policy on inner city areas.

The money has gone to a number of road and rail projects which can be completed in the short term, and at the same time Mr. Shore gave his blessing to larger schemes, including relief roads and an east London river crossing.

Mr. Shore announced a further £45m for docklands under the partnership arrangements last month, which can be incorporated in the plans now being drawn up.

The one project the Government turned down was the Fleet/River Lane, renamed by the Conservatives the Jubilee Lane, which was designed to be the main link to dockland. The Government concluded that the line was unlikely to carry industrial workers up or within dockland, would lose money, and would not attract much capital for housing, shopping and services.

Without government assistance the underground line to dockland, whatever it is called, will probably not be built.

Mr. Cutler believes the Government's decision to be misguided. He regards the rail proposal as providing the essential means of linking those parts of dockland which have long been isolated from one another. "I have also regarded the construction of the railway as the means not only of

attracting development but also of enabling the public authorities on whose investment so much depends, to recoup some of their outlay", he said.

Despite the Government's stand, he announced that the GLC's proposals for the line would continue, and the council would promote legislation to empower its construction. Behind the public defiance, however, the council acknowledges that there will now be a long period of uncertainty about the line.

Considering the position, officers on the dockland joint committee decided that the GLC's proposals for works and improvements to the present rail network would provide an adequate interim solution which would not inhibit any future construction.

"We are satisfied that the railway works together with the roads now proposed provide an acceptable transport infrastructure for dockland", they reported.

Providing the basic services is the crucial matter and that is what the GLC as a strategic authority must do, to make possible the full redevelopment of the area.

In the meantime the GLC is pressing on. In the face of strong opposition from the Labour minority the council approved recently the

spending of £50,000 on a scheme to stimulate industrial and commercial interests in dockland.

In the longer term the GLC is campaigning for the establishment of a free port for the dockland area. The idea had been raised before, but the present administration has brought it to a new urgency, believing that a duty-free area near London could stimulate commerce and industry.

A deputation from the council recently spent a day looking round the free port of Hamburg during the conference of the International Union of Local Authorities. They were encouraged both by what they saw and by the Hamburg authorities, and are preparing their case to put to the Government.

These are still early days for the Conservative administration at County Hall as they carry on and adjust the joint dockland policy. Under the partnership scheme with the Government, the council is requested to come forward with a programme for action "in a concerted and committed manner" by next summer to cover 1979 to 1982. Then it will be seen how much nearer to realisation the dream has become.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, The Times.

Spot the change at LOB

THEN

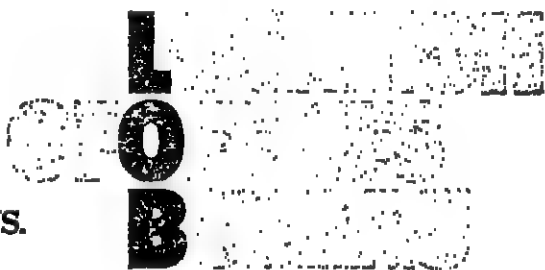
- Free advice on office relocation
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- Facts on housing and amenities
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- Facts on Government grants
- Where to move is your decision
- Role: Promotion of office relocation from Central London (West End and City)

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Wider role for office location bureau

It appeared at first that the new role given to the Location of Offices Bureau in May was its complete reversal of its previous 14-year existence. But things are rarely as they first seem, and the bureau was able to welcome its expanded duties while alarmed at misinterpretations of its change of clothes.

Although now those misconceptions have been cleared up the bureau faces another difficulty. Neither extra staff nor money has been provided by the Government to allow the full implementation of its new role, and indeed the autumn advertising campaign of the bureau scarcely reflects it.

When the LOB was set up in 1963, its function was to encourage the dispersal of office employment from congested Central London to suitable centres elsewhere.

That was at a time when the previous decade had seen an increase of 150,000 people travelling daily at peak hours to the centre of London and when the growth of office development was at its height.

The declining population of London and the loss of jobs, mainly in the manufacturing industries, over the last few years led to a shameful decay in the inner areas, and the Government is now embarked on a policy to tackle that decay and its causes.

In line with the policy, Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced on May 17 that the bureau's somewhat narrow role would be widened to charge it with the task of promoting the better distribution of office employment in England and Wales.

Two specific new functions were added to the bureau's terms of reference—to attract international concerns so that they locate office employment in Britain; and to give particular attention to the promotion of office employment in inner urban areas. In the case of London this excluded the Central London area, largely the City and the West End, but from which the bureau had been decanting office staff for 14 years.

The Order in Council giving the bureau these new tasks came into force in August, but apart from the lack of staff and money, there is a good deal of research in progress which will be needed to help it to fulfil its role.

One charge the bureau is anxious to dispel is that it has been responsible for the decline in jobs in central London. In hard facts, 2,036 firms and 145,155 jobs were moved under LOB sponsorship from 1963 to

1977. During the same period, however, the bureau encouraged the establishment of at least 49,000 jobs in Greater London, excluding the central area.

The net gain in jobs is estimated at 1,500 in inner London and 35,000 in outer London.

Mr. Anthony Prendergast, chairman, explained in this year's annual report: "As I have said on many occasions in the last few years the movement of office jobs from the City and the West End has merely levelled off an expansion which, if it had continued, would have resulted in a more balanced system. The movement has at the same time brought the benefit of increased office employment to the rest of the Greater London area."

In the year 1976-77, LOB moved 10,885 jobs, containing the downward trend of the previous two years, and perhaps hiding a greater decline since 4,000 of the jobs moved reflected decisions taken before April 1975.

The effect of the dispersal of employment on job opportunities in the inner cities is at the heart of the arguments on inner area decay. Although much of the debate has centred on the loss of manufacturing employment, fears have been expressed that similar difficulties may emerge in relation to office jobs.

An analysis of moves in London showed that the small gain of jobs in the inner ring compared with the outer ring was in part because of the lack of office space—about one third of that available in Greater London as a whole. The difference clearly reflects the views of developers on the greater attractions to employers of a location in outer London.

Beyond the South-east, LOB research shows that, contrary to popular notions, a substantial proportion of moves to regions containing the largest concentrations has favoured the concentrations themselves rather than decentralised locations.

LOB sees its priorities as first, attracting jobs, then inner urban areas such as London's docklands, and then with the encouragement of international jobs in Britain.

On the international front, the bureau has had talks with government departments, including the committee on tradeable export. The bureau has prepared a leaflet offering its services to international firms.

"We are aiming for a better distribution", Mr. Prendergast said. "This could mean an international bank moving into

central London, or a foreign business moving to Liverpool. Foreign firms would bring with them different eyes from British businessmen."

On the home front, the bureau has had discussions with most of the London boroughs to find out their views on office development. At present, LOB is still at the stage of seeing what their potential customers think before they establish their own part in the process.

It may be that office development is not suitable for inner areas, though there is little doubt that the boroughs would like the rate income such development would provide.

The first £17m for London from the Government in its new policy had no provision for even a modest office for the bureau. They may come later when the areas have come back to life, and that could be a decade.

So for the moment, the bureau is talking, researching and making the Government staff to carry out its role. LOB did have a staff of 20, now reduced to 14. If its new terms of reference are to be much more than pious hopes, the bureau has an unenviable case for strengthening its muscle.

C.W.

JOHN D. WOOD

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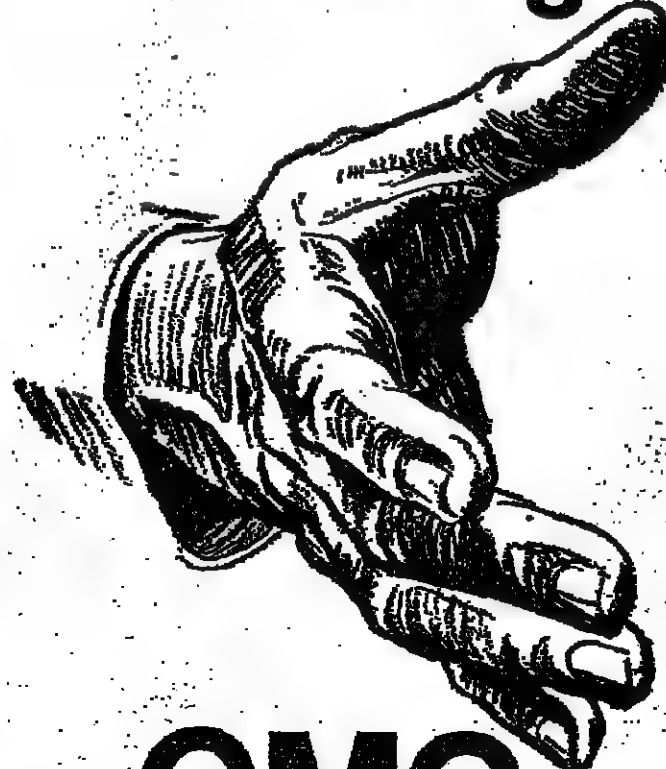
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Better shopping needed

continued from previous page
City's development plan that "the most important shortages are mainly in modern small units under 1,000 sq ft and over 100,000 sq ft."

Even so, the City planners have certain reservations about future office development. Pointing out that buildings already under construction or schemes with planning permission will create enough floorspace to make further office expansion questionable, they also fear that large new buildings will erode further the number of small office units that are essential to firms associated with the City's traditional activities.

"If it becomes apparent that the loss of activities such as accountancy, estate agency, legal and other services, for example, are reducing the external economies of the City's main

financial functions, it may become necessary to adopt a more protective attitude to sustain the activities essential to the City's efficiency", says the background study paper on economic activity prepared by the city architect and planning officer, Mr. Edwin Chandler.

Westminster's draft district plan also adopts a protective attitude. "The City council's office strategy is one of restraint, which sets out to control the growth of offices and to ensure that development is directed to those locations where it will be most useful and advantageous", it says. These areas were listed in the Greater London Development Plan as Victoria, Charing Cross, Piccadilly, and the areas around Paddington Station and Marylebone Station.

M.H.

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Better shopping needed

Faced with unemployment figures in some boroughs that are as bad as the worst in Britain, there is no doubt that London could do with more industrial development, not only in dockland but also in other inner London boroughs such as Hammersmith, Wandsworth and Islington. But there is also a need, surprising as it may seem, for more offices and shops of the right kind in the right places.

Anyone who struggles up Oxford Street to do the Christmas shopping may appreciate the need for improvement, for the partial pedestrianization of the busiest shopping street in Britain can hardly be considered an environmental success, but why should so many people need to go there at all, to be herded together in conditions that are barely tolerable?

It is little wonder that the new shopping developed at Brent Cross, north London, by the Hammarson Group has proved to be such a roaring success, exceeding the expectations of even the most optimistic traders, for many of its customers are those who have been spared the need to toil up to the West End.

As a survey by the West End letting agents, Donaldson and Sons, has shown: "Shoppers have shifted their spending from central London to Brent Cross rather than from the strategic suburban centres in north west London."

The attraction of a shopping centre like Brent Cross is a combination of such factors as accessibility, availability of parking, quality and range of shops, and comfortable shopping conditions. Could London do with more such shopping centres in the suburbs?

Clearly, the answer is that it does not need them in places that already have flourishing centres, such as Kingston, Croydon and Richmond, although there may be just as much need to improve conditions for shoppers in these areas as there is in Oxford Street.

As Healey and Baker, the West End agents with perhaps the greatest experience of shopping properties, said in a recent report: "It seems to us that, in the United Kingdom, the improvement of down-town shopping areas, either by modern shopping developments or by pedestrianization of existing streets, will and should remain the most practical solution for most centres of population."

continued on next page



Some of London's new office development seen from the dome of St Paul's

Philip Sawyer

Growing pressure to amend land Act

by Michael Hanson

In spite of repeated assurances by Conservative Party spokesmen that the Community Land Act will be repealed, some dissenting noises are beginning to be heard from the most surprising quarters.

The British Property Federation, which does not accept that it is necessary for development land to pass through municipal ownership in order to achieve positive planning, nevertheless believes it is necessary for local authorities to have improved powers of compulsory purchase in certain circumstances.

"The Community Land Act is objectionable in its

curtailment of the owner's rights of objection," the federation says in an official policy statement. "Nevertheless there should be provisions for expediting compulsory purchase when the owner of a small parcel of land required for development holds up an entire comprehensive scheme."

These powers for overriding the objections of an owner should be limited to land that comprises 10 per cent, at the most, of the area required for the whole scheme, on the analogy of the powers in the Companies Acts for minority shareholders to be bought out compulsorily.

A former president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Mr Philip

Franklin, goes even further in his willingness to accept the Community Land Act. In his presidential address last year, he urged the Conservatives not to repeal the Act if they came to power.

"No government will ever establish a fair, workable and above all reasonably permanent land policy until it is accepted that any policy based on a high degree of political dogma will inevitably be repealed as soon as there is a change of political power," he said.

He suggested that the Act could be made to work "if it is intelligently amended and some of those provisions which were designed for the achievement of extreme political objectives rather than for any other purpose."

That is not a view that

commends itself to most people in the property world, who fill the correspondence columns of their professional magazines with complaints about the cumbersome legal procedures.

In its first year of operation, the Community Land Act made a good start, according to the Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Reginald Ffrench, having been responsible for the acquisition of 1,571 acres of land for £12.1m, but he studiously avoided stating what the Act had cost to operate in terms of staff costs and overheads. If his predecessor, the ill-fated Land Commission Act of 1967, is any guide, the administrative costs are likely to outweigh the apparent advantages.

Most of the criticism of the Community Land Act has been superficial so far, but the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is conducting a detailed analysis of the working of the Act, with a view to identifying any practical difficulties which have arisen and suggesting changes where necessary. In keeping with the constructive approach favoured by their former president,

This is not a view shared by the British Property Federation, however, which points out that it is usually the landowner or a prospective purchaser who identifies land as being suitable for a particular type of development.

It is the developer who formulates the detailed plans and assesses the feasibility of the development, and it is the developer who takes the risk that the project may or may not show a reasonable return on the capital invested. In these circumstances, the federation argues, "a fair proportion of the gain should therefore accrue also to the landowner."

The federation believes that the normal rate of corporation tax is the appropriate level at which to tax

the property world, development land tax. The Conservatives apparently intend to retain it, although in a substantially modified form. According to Mr Rossi, a fine balance has to be struck between giving landowners the incentive to bring sites forward for development and taxing excessive profits realized upon the grant of planning permission.

The Conservatives have remained vague about the level of tax they would prefer to see in place of the present rate, which is 80 per cent for any company that realizes development value of more than £150,000 in a year, although anything less is being taxed at 65 per cent until 1979. The indications are that the Conservatives favour a tax of between 50 and 60 per cent, and most probably would settle on the 52 per cent figure that is now used for corporation tax.

As for the Government, it still has the power to reserve to increase development land tax to 100 per cent by the time the Community Land Act reaches its second year, when all local authorities will be placed upon a duty to acquire all land needed for development at its existing value.

The reasoning behind this political dogma is that all increases in the value of property are the result of public action, such as by granting planning permission or carrying out improvement to roads or services.

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The federation believes that the normal rate of corporation tax is the appropriate level at which to tax

development gains by companies, but it suggests that gains made by individuals should be taxed at the normal graduated rates of income tax, but subject to a limit that it should not be higher than the rate applicable to companies.

The federation is not alone in believing that development land tax has been responsible for the severe shortage of housing land. That is also the view of the National House Building Council and the House Builders Federation. However, it is not only housing land that is being affected but also land for commercial and industrial development, mainly because many owners have been frightened to bring it forward for development because of their fears of the Community Land Act and development land tax.

Another drawback to development land tax has been the Inland Revenue's insistence that the liability to tax arises as soon as development has begun, instead of when it has been completed and the gain has been realized. To make matters worse, the Inland Revenue is not prepared to agree to the amount of tax before development begins, which is another reason why land suitable for development is being withheld.

As a result of pressure from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other professional bodies, the Government included an amendment to the tax in this year's Finance Act to allow institutions such as pension funds and insurance companies to finance developments by means of conventional sale and leaseback without becoming liable to pay tax of up to 80 per cent at the outset of the development.

The need for other amendments may become apparent when we have the results of the parallel detailed study of the Development Land Tax Act that is also being undertaken by the RICS.

Whatever changes may be called for in the tax, there is already growing pressure in the City to see the Community Land Act amended, either by modern shopping developments or by pedestrianization of existing streets, will and should remain the most practical solution for most centres of population."

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Partnerships can revive the inner city

by Michael Hanson

Long before the Community Land Act came into force, local authorities were participating in redevelopment schemes that have made economic and environmental sense.

What is needed now is a partnership that will employ the skills and funds of private enterprise in ways that are most likely to bring about the renewal of the worn-out areas of our towns and cities.

As Reginald Freeman, Minister for Housing and Construction, told the National Housing and Town Planning Council's annual conference last month: "The positive influence that local authorities can apply through the communal ownership of land, on the planning and developing of their areas is going to be a key factor in regenerating our older urban areas."

Unfortunately, the public ownership of land is not enough without a positive attitude towards development. Experience shows that those local authorities with a traditional antipathy to private development, especially commercial development, are all too often the ones with the greatest

amount of property in need of redevelopment, much of it derelict.

Yet a positive attitude to development is nothing new to some local authorities. The Corporation of London, which has owned much of the land in the City for centuries, was described as "perhaps the most notable example of local authority ownership of land which has been used extensively for commercial development" by the Secretary of State for the Environment's advisory group on commercial property development two years ago.

That committee also pointed out that many local authorities have had a tradition of municipal acquisition of land since the middle of the last century, with the result that they are now substantial landowners in their areas. Others, such as Coventry, Plymouth and Exeter, took the opportunity provided by extensive war damage to acquire large areas of land in their city centres, in order to plan the subsequent redevelopment comprehensively.

Traditionally, land was made available for development on building leases, which were anything from 50 to 99 years, at the end of which the land and the buildings on it reverted to the original landowners.

This was the method by

which the great private estates of the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Portman and others were developed, and it was also the way many of the office buildings in the City were developed.

The development of Belgrave and Pimlico by the Grosvenor Estate on a leasehold basis from 1826 onwards showed how the most unpromising, marshy land could be transformed into desirable urban areas. Faced with the need to redevelop 5,000 acres of equally unpromising land in the London docklands, the local authorities have so far given little indication of being able to achieve the same transformation.

More recently, through its commercial development company, has partnered local authorities in the development of shopping centres at Runcorn, Macclesfield, Northampton and Lewisham, and it has just started work on its latest joint venture, an £8m shopping precinct at Staines, in partnership with the Spelthorne District Council.

Road improvements have often been the key to successful commercial development, as when the old London County Council cut Kingsway and Aldwych through the slums between

Clare Market and Drury Lane to create a new traffic route between the Strand and Holborn. The new road was opened by Edward VII in 1905, but it was some years before all the buildings sites on each side were developed, proving once again that public ownership of the land is not enough to guarantee commercial success.

In Birmingham, the cutting of Corporation Street through the insanitary slums in the centre of the city was the result of the vision of the mayor, Joseph Chamberlain, who later became president of the Board of Trade under Gladstone. Begun in 1875, it was not completed until 1904, and many of the buildings were not taken up before 1914, but the first section between New Street and Bull Street rapidly established itself as the main shopping street, and when the 75-year leases began to run out in the 1950s, the city benefited from the reversion and the opportunity to redevelop comprehensively.

For local authorities prepared to wait up to 99 years for their reversion, the building lease system proved quite satisfactory, but this was no longer the case when the council wanted to take its toll. During the recent boom, the Greater London Council, faced with

the prospect of being unable to increase its ground rents in Kingsway and Aldwych until the end of the century, was persuaded to sell many of its freehold reversioners to the leaseholders, which attracted some criticism.

Other criticism during the boom was directed at proposed schemes of major redevelopment in the centres of towns and cities that did not always seem to need it, such as Chesterfield and Carlisle. Such criticism is nothing new. In 1963, Sir Keith Joseph, as Minister of Housing and Local Government, expressed concern about the quality of redevelopment in some city centres.

Design apart, the breakthrough in partnership redevelopment schemes came when local authorities began to share in rising rents. The first scheme where the rent that the council received was linked to the commercial success of the redevelopment was at Blackburn, where the first phase of the redevelopment of the town centre was begun by Leasing Development in April, 1965, and completed in October, 1967.

This first phase, covering five acres, included a department store, three supermarkets, 50 shops, an entertainment centre, parking for 544 cars, and a 15-storey block of offices forming

an extension to the Victorian town hall.

A second phase followed, adding another three acres, a supermarket, 28 shops, a restaurant and parking for 714 cars. Both phases let readily, and work is now about to start on the third phase, which will include another department store.

Redevelopment of this quality is a planning gain in itself but during the property boom some local authorities got increasingly greedy about the additional "gains" they wanted the developer to provide in return for planning permission for commercial development. Where the demands were reasonable, the developers were happy to accommodate them, but in some cases they became so exorbitant that redevelopment schemes were abandoned.

Large areas of the inner city became sterilised in this way, notably in Southwark. It is a sign of the times that Southwark has just announced a £3m fund "for the development of industry and commerce" in the borough. Two years ago, the late Anthony Crosland's advisory group warned of the "possibility that the local authority's responsibility to achieve positive planning will dominate in such a way that the chances of carrying out viable commercial development are prejudiced".

British Rail sheds surplus land

by John Young

A few years ago a Sunday newspaper asked British Rail how much land it owned. Officials scratched their heads and replied that they did not really know, that they had never been asked before, but that they would try to find out.

Eventually a broad calculation was made, based on the number of miles of track, stations, marshalling yards and so on, and the conclusion was reached that, give or take a few thousand acres, the figure was probably about 250,000 acres. The railways were subsequently classed, along with such bodies as the Forestry Commission, the National Coal Board and the Crown Commissioners, as among the half dozen largest landowners in Britain.

Looking out from a train window it is easy enough to conclude that much of that land is ill-used or wasted. Environmental and social pressure groups regularly cite such alleged misuse as a prime case for government or local authority intervention.

Mr Robert Dashwood, managing director of British Railways Property Board, not surprisingly disagrees. In the past 15 years, he points out, some 70,000 acres of surplus land have been sold for a total of about £20m.

Those sales have comprised surplus branch lines and their surroundings; housing and land designated by local authorities for that purpose and also for roads and other public works; as much land as possible which was considered to be a wasting asset and for which no obvious use was envisaged; and some sites which were particularly attractive to developers and for which particularly tempting offers were made.

Mr Dashwood estimates that between 75 and 80 per cent of the railways' remaining landholdings are operationally fully used. That leaves up to 50,000 acres which, for the present, serve no purpose.

At least half of those holdings consist of closed

branch lines which, by their nature, are the most difficult to dispose of. In the past they have been acquired by railway preservation societies, which have successfully capitalised on public nostalgia; by local authorities which have converted them to bridlepaths, public footpaths and other recreational amenities; and by farmers who have been able to incorporate them in adjoining holdings.

The drawback is that, in many cases, the board has been left with relics such as steep embankments, cuttings, tunnels and viaducts, for which it retains a statutory, and frequently expensive, liability.

Apart from branch lines the board has been saddled with a number of sites affected by planning blight, or on which local authorities have reached no decision, and a few for which there are simply no takers. Additionally, some sites have been reserved for possible future operational use, such as road/rail interchanges, terminals and when freight business is permitted to expand.

Mr Dashwood complains, with some justification, that it is the unused land that attracts attention. On the positive side, he estimates that gross revenues from the letting of non-operational land will this year exceed £10m. Rental revenue from operational land, comprising everything from station bookstalls to offices built above main line terminals, will amount to some £20m.

He agrees that British Rail was probably slow to foresee the property boom of the 1960s and early 1970s, and that the immense potential of redeveloping stations in town and city centres was underestimated. But he also blames the inconsistency of government policies and the reluctance of local authorities to grant planning permission.

The classic example was Euston in London, where the then London County Council adamantly rejected proposals to build offices over the rebuilt station. The stated reason was that the area was unsuited to commercial development, even though a number of big new office blocks were under way or planned.

Permission has since been granted for offices on the area between the station and Euston Road, which are now nearing completion. The fact that the first roof of the station remains undamaged, while the potentially green, open space in front of it has been sacrificed, is a melancholy comment on planners' lack of vision.

It should, of course, have been obvious from the start that the redevelopment of central urban stations made every sort of planning sense. Large-scale office accommodation could be provided without land loss, it would be convenient for commuters and reduce the pressure on London Transport, and, as a result, the hard-pressed British Rail would make a handsome profit.

In his history of the 1960s property boom, Mr Oliver Morley claims that British Rail acted in an unbusinesslike way and demanded excessive prices or rentals. He says that, as it may, some developments slipped through the net, notably Cannon Street.

The 1968 Transport Act required British Rail, for the first time, to act as a commercial entrepreneur, but the board still remained restricted in its ability to raise finance. "There was, and still is, a feeling", Mr Dashwood says, "that our business is to run railways, and that we should leave the property and use of it to developers."

"We have argued on many occasions that we would like to have full commercial freedom to run our property business. But, on the other hand, we understand the need for controls on public expenditure and that funds allocated for property development would be at the expense of the railways generally."

The answer, as he sees it, is to involve institutional funds. That has already happened in the case of the Blackfriars redevelopment, which has been financed partly by King's College, Cambridge, and at Euston where the new development has been funded, on a lease-back arrangement, by the Norwich Union and ICI pension funds.

The economic recession has precluded, for the time being, ambitious schemes for



The redeveloped Blackfriars Station, London, which will soon be completed.

Victoria and Waterloo, which multi-purpose rail/bus/air Station was recently the subject of a lengthy public inquiry, at which the main opposition came from conservationists. The proposed redevelopment of the Liverpool Street Station, which is being undertaken by the Greater London Council, is also the subject of a public inquiry.

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MR CARTER'S OIL PLATFORM

"I remember in this room last May," said President Carter at a recent press conference, "someone asked me if my Administration was all style and no substance. Lately the criticisms have been that there is too much substance and not enough style." Poor Mr. Carter. Once the knives start being drawn on an American President there is no fairness. He is suffering from a reaction which frequently sets in when the enthusiastic initiatives of a new Administration come up against the realities of American politics. He has generated a lot of new legislation and it has been too much for Congress. Some of it is now being postponed, and the volatile opinion polls have been recording a less favourable verdict on his performance.

The verdict is only partly justified and need not be taken anywhere near seriously enough to justify the doom-laden prophecies in which some American commentators have indulged. President Carter has had a lot to learn in office. He and his young men from Georgia have handled relations with Congress badly, and he may have made matters worse by deciding to appeal over the head of Congress to public opinion. If he had won his election by a landslide vote this might have worked because Congressmen would need his support more than he needs theirs, but the reverse is true. He ran behind most congressional members of his own party and they have yet to be persuaded that he has overtaken them. He needs their support. He cannot rely on automatic party loyalty or on the old coalition on which his party used to rest. American politics has become more fluid and Congress has become more assertive. He can win support only by persuasion and he is only now

beginning to learn what this means. He got most of his energy Bill through the House of Representatives helped by the loyalty of Mr. Tip O'Neill, the Speaker, whom he had earlier treated very casually, and who fortunately happens to come from an oil-consuming state, Massachusetts. Amazingly enough he thought he could get the Bill through the Senate without taking any special notice of Senator Russell Long, the powerful chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, who comes from Louisiana, an oil-producing state more interested in increasing production than cutting consumption. The President also thought he could out-gun the oil lobbies by denouncing their allegedly excessive profits with figures which could easily be challenged. The result was disaster in the Senate.

His address to the nation on Tuesday showed him in a more careful mood but rightly as determined as ever to persuade people of the urgency of the energy Bill. It is indeed of the highest national and international importance. The world simply cannot afford the stresses that will come if the United States goes on importing oil at present rates. Since 1973 almost all the developed countries have cut their oil imports but the United States has increased its by more than 40 per cent. Ten years ago the United States imported two and a half million barrels a day, or about 20 per cent of what it used. Now it imports nearly nine million barrels a day at much higher prices, with a consequent drain on its balance of payments. Meanwhile domestic production is decreasing. This trend cannot go on. President Carter quoted his Defence Secretary, who said recently that the present deficiency of assured energy sources is the single surest

threat . . . to our security and that of our allies."

The trouble is that any serious cut in American oil consumption comes up not only against the powerful oil companies but also against the entire American way of life, which is based on cheap and abundant energy for large cars, huge heating and cooling systems for buildings, and a generous use of energy in industry. Moreover, at this stage the problem is simply not visible to most Americans, so that the President's attempt to rally them to the moral equivalent of war finds little response. In any case they are themselves their own main enemy, which does not help either. He must therefore rely at least as much on informed political support as on less informed public support. In fact there could hardly be a more difficult issue on which to rally the people against the politicians.

But there is also another factor which the President scarcely mentioned in his original presentation of the energy plan on April 20, and which even now is only creeping rather shyly into his speeches, and that is the interest which the rest of the world must have in this issue. At first he talked almost entirely of maintaining the American standard of living. Now he mentions national security. But America's oil imports are already having a distorting influence on the market, and an international competition for oil in the next decade would have even more damaging effects, which would include war. To appeal almost solely to the material self-interest of the American people is probably to underestimate them and is anyway uncharacteristic of Mr. Carter. The stakes are higher and President Carter should make this clear. So should foreign governments.

STILL THE FISHERMEN'S FRIEND

The news that Britain's fishermen have been excluded from yet another fishing ground because of one of Britain's partners in the European Community comes, regrettably, as no surprise. For the fishing industry, entry into the EEC has been attended by almost entirely adverse consequences. The latest blow is that Norway has stopped British trawlers from fishing for cod off its northern coast, not because they had exceeded their own quota, but because the French had taken more than the 500 tonnes which the quota they were entitled to, and in doing so reached the total quota laid down for the Community. The amounts involved are relatively small but the incident serves as yet another example of what the British fishing authorities consider to be unfair behaviour by the fishing fleets of the other members of the Community (apart from Ireland), backed by their governments. That mistrust and disappointment is shared by the British Government, which has found its fellow members stubborn and the European Commis-

sion unsympathetic. Its efforts to negotiate what are seen as reasonable and equitable terms for all have been met with obduracy and lack of understanding by all except the Irish.

Mr. John Silkin has now been reported as being pleased with an agreement reached earlier this week which, he claims, establishes the principle that coastal states have the sole right to control fish conservation off their shores. It is doubtful whether he is justified in expressing such optimism. Only 500 tonnes were at stake, and the decision to allow fishermen from Normandy and Picardy to have exclusive fishing rights for herring within four miles of their home ports scarcely binds the Community to allowing Britain its much more substantial claims. Past experience suggests that neither the Commission nor Britain's seven continental partners will see the decision in the same light as Mr. Silkin.

Nevertheless he was right to point to it as a factor to be taken into account in future negotiations. The British Government had been arguing for an exclu-

sive 12-mile fishing belt, and for a preferential zone of between 12 and 50 miles from Britain's coasts. Its demands are justifiable, both on the grounds of effective conservation, to ensure that fish stocks are not depleted to the extent of becoming extinct, and for the economic survival of Britain's beleaguered fishing industry. Recent action by some of the other Community fleets has shown how justified Britain's attitude is, at least on the conservation aspect.

Mr. Silkin has argued Britain's case intelligently and forcefully. He has shown no signs of weakening, resolve, and seems determined that the Community's fishing policy will not be the subject of British capitulation. British public opinion is behind him. He is not being a "bad European" by continuing to press the British case strongly. On the contrary, if he were not to do so, and the existing proposals of the European Commission were to be adopted, it is possible that in a decade or so the entire EEC pool would be all but fished out. That would be to no country's benefit.

NO AMMUNITION FOR REPUBLICANS

Jubilee year must have been a disheartening time for British republicans, but Mr. William Hamilton, as alert and severe an auditor as ever, did manage on Tuesday to make the Queen look as if she had got away with a pay award distinctly in excess of Phase Two principles. Her estimated Civil List expenditure for this calendar year, the Chancellor announced, will be 18 per cent greater than last year's. By extracting this information through a parliamentary question, Mr. Hamilton made it appear that he had uncovered a secret, though the estimate for all Civil List payments and pensions for this financial year was made public last spring, and there has been no increase in the global sum, which is subject to the same cash limits as other government spending.

The Civil List is not a wage at all, of course, nor is it exactly an expense account. It is meaningless as a guide either to the real cost of the monarchy or to the income of the royal family. It covers some living and professional costs—newspapers but not stationery, garden parties but not state visits,

repairs to some household goods but not others. Wages and salaries account for three quarters of it.

Traditionally, each monarch was allotted an annual sum by Parliament at the outset of his reign, which he could spend without further parliamentary oversight. These arrangements foundered in the inflation of the early seventies. Several times the Queen asked out her Civil List allocation out of her own pocket. Since 1975 the Civil List has been included in the annual public expenditure estimates and subject like the rest to annual scrutiny by Parliament. Its precise amount, confidentially worked out by the Royal Trustees (the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Her Majesty's Treasurer) is based on the movement of prices and civil service pay rates, as well as changes in the level of royal activity.

The Queen's extra Jubilee commitments no doubt amply account for the increases in this year's allocation, and after the exhaustive programme that she has submitted herself to there will be few who will grudge the extra expense. The royal Jubilee

celebrations have been modest by past standards. It is impossible to set an objective standard for the scale of display appropriate to modern royalty, but there would be no fun in a skimpy monarchy, and there is no sign at all of widespread public demand for one. Audience reaction is the only sure guide in such cases.

But audience reaction depends to some extent on the way the accounts are presented. The new Civil List arrangements give no public information about how much of the year's money is to be spent on what. Coupled with the still greater obscurity that surrounds the Queen's untaxed private finances, this factor remains at least a potential source of public misgiving. Much information has been made available from time to time, and it suggests that the Royal household is admirably thrifty. But regular information is absent. Neither personal privacy nor the mystery that Bagehot insisted should surround the throne require, in the case of the Civil List, abandonment of the general principle that the taxpayer should be able to see where his money goes.

The Zinoviev Letter

From Professor W. E. Butler
Sir, The recent contributions of Dr. Andrews (October 28) and Miss Crowe (October 20) and others in these columns and elsewhere to unravelling the truth about the Zinoviev Letter have been most useful. But the fact remains that the Harvard Text of the Letter is still the only extant version in the Russian language so far known. The English copy released by the Foreign Office seems to have been a translation of that Russian document contained in the Harvard document. The Russian text reproduced in a 1927 Soviet publication is a translation back into Russian of the Foreign Office English language version.

Miss Crowe had not seen my 1970 article on the Harvard Text when

she published her own in 1975. Certain inconsistencies found in the English text released by the Foreign Office (and in the Harvard Text) also have been found to exist in other Soviet publications of this period, to be sure, but so also do they appear in other letters of the period similar to the Zinoviev Letter which are known to be forgeries and which preceded the Zinoviev Letter. And my own conclusions and arguments in respect of the Harvard Text did not rest solely upon these inaccuracies, as you and others may have inferred from newspaper accounts at the time.

The Foreign Office files which have become open during the past five years under the 50-year rule offer much insight about the ways in which individuals acted in respect of the Letter and what they believed about it. But as for the

document itself, no further evidence to my knowledge has appeared. Yours sincerely, W. E. BUTLER, Professor of Comparative Law in the University of London, Faculty of Laws, University College London, 48 Endsleigh Gardens, WC1.

Doing without police

From Mr. Clive Davies
Sir, The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire is right to advocate self-policing in rural areas. (Your November 4 issue). But isn't the need for community-based "do-it-yourself policing" even greater in our crime-ridden towns and cities? Yours sincerely, CLIVE DAVIES, Department of Sociology, University of Liverpool.

Electing parent governors

From Dr. Eric Midwinter
Sir, A clash of heads—seven years in all—claim (letter, November 7) that parents are not enthusiastic about parent-governor elections, citing ballots of five per cent in London, and this leads them to question "use of the premises of the Taylor Report". Years ago, teachers used to assume that when parents failed to attend some school function, this meant that they were apathetic. Since then many teachers, thinking rather more positively than the defeatist seventies, have re-jigged the question as: what is wrong with our mode of approach and invitation that we have failed to enlist the evident interest of parents? Most of the answers relate to adjusting such approaches to the ordinary life-style of the citizenry, and, as a consequence, there have been enormous strides in home-school relations. Undoubtedly, many of these lessons have been forgotten when it comes to parent-governor elections, although one should note that many schools which, by integrating parent-governor elections within a vital and lively general scheme of parental rapport, have had voting in very high numbers in working class as well as middle class areas. There is sufficient literature and evidence of good practice in this field to provide a basis for the training of each of those years. The modules, in addition to providing him with a comprehensive technical knowledge, ensure that he acquires certain skills and practical qualifications, including pump operation, heavy goods vehicle driving, special appliance operation (turntable ladders, etc.), breathing

apparatus wearing, first aid and fire prevention. He is required to undergo tests to demonstrate his proficiency in these skills.

All very clear cut. After four years, if he qualifies in all the above, a fireman is entitled to £65.70 before stoppages. But to earn this sum a fireman must be prepared to work a 48-hour week, many hours of which are unsocial hours.

Only a fireman can be fully aware of the conditions under which he is called to work, when working at his most effective the public are unlikely to see him because of the very nature of the dangers involved. In your leading article it is stated that the Fire Service has no "acute recruitment problems". Can you explain then why my own station is 25 per cent below establishment, and why appliances are not always fully manned?

The Government has introduced much legislation over recent years dealing with fire prevention. The Fire Service has to supply men to ensure that Acts of Parliament such as the Fire Precautions Act are implemented to the full.

The Fire Service has been cut to the bone over the last two years due to cutbacks in public spending—there has been no cutback in the workload but an increase.

Is it any wonder that the nation's firemen have finally had to say, "Enough is enough. The public and public responsibility have been used as tools to suppress reasonable pay claims too often before."

Yours, D. DAVIES, 5 Mareswood Close, Sevenoaks, Kent, November 8.

Justifying a strike by firemen

From Mr. J. Davies

Sir, It was with deep concern that I—a serving fireman—read the editorial in the November 8 edition of *The Times*, entitled "Now the firemen". Comments made in that editorial have moved myself to defend the action forced upon myself and my colleagues throughout the nation.

A little over two years ago, because of the introduction of Phase One of the Government/TUC pay policies, the Interim Report of a National Joint Council Working Party, which sought to evaluate the wider involvement of firemen in fire prevention, was pigeon-holed.

What the Fire Brigades Union's Executive Council has done is to equate that "generality of jobs" comparison referred to in the recent McCarthy report, with average earnings of all adult males, then standing at £78.08 per week, and added 10 per cent to take account of the "range of skills, responsibilities of modern firemen and the hazards they face."

Applying this formula to the present level of qualified firemen's gross weekly pay of £65.70 would mean an increase of approximately £20 per week.

At present, to qualify for the qualified fireman's rate of pay, a fireman must have served four years and successfully completed a prescribed training module for each of those years. The modules, in addition to providing him with a comprehensive technical knowledge, ensure that he acquires certain skills and practical qualifications, including pump operation, heavy goods vehicle driving, special appliance operation (turntable ladders, etc.), breathing

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Accounting for the monarchy

From Lady Ballantrae

Sir, Can Mr. Willie Hamilton point to any other single government expenditure of £2m which gives as instant a return as does the investment in the monarchy?

I would guess that more than £2m has been collected by VAT alone on objects sold this year bearing the Queen's portrait. People have been kept in employment (and paid their taxes) to produce, handle and sell these goods and to meet the demands of tourists and visitors. Sales and services have been spread throughout the country.

No government—even by taking 5p off income tax—has discovered how to touch the people who make a nation with the magic that came across so strongly on Jubilee Day.

HM The Queen gives more than any cash columns will ever show. I am your obedient servant, LAURA BALLANTRAE, Auchinure, Ballantrae, Ayrshire, November 9.

Mapping buried history

From the President of the Prehistoric Society and others

Sir, On behalf of the societies we represent we should like to express our very deep concern and disquiet over the proposed redeployment by the Ordnance Survey of its specialised archaeological staff and sources (your article of October 24), which amounts virtually to the abrogation of all responsibility for the quality of the archaeological information which will in future appear on its maps. Not only is this action being taken unilaterally, without consulting informed archaeological opinion, but it is being pressed through in advance of the study of the Ordnance Survey's activities as a whole which is in process of being initiated by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

We appreciate that in present circumstances the Ordnance Survey has to make economies, and are well aware that there has been some overlapping in certain parts of the country with other organisations engaged in recording antiquities. But surely the right course now would be to thrash these matters out publicly in the forthcoming study? This precludes action on the part of the Ordnance Survey which would seem to imply that to eliminate the whole question before the inquiry starts. If there is any such intention we protest most strongly against it. The Ordnance Survey's coverage of archaeology in both traditional and modern methods is internationally recognised. Anything which affects it adversely is therefore a matter which must be debated fully and freely in any general consideration of its future role.

Yours sincerely, J. D. EVANS, President, Prehistoric Society.

A. L. F. RIVET, President, Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies.

DONALD HARDEN, President, Society for Medieval Archaeology.

Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WC1.

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Yours, D

State to pay 6,000 idle Montefibre workers

From John Earle
Rome, Nov 9

Montefibre, the textile and fibres company and one of the heaviest loss makers in the ailing Montedison group, has gained a temporary reprieve with a government offer to take over wage payments for 6,000 workers the company has been seeking for weeks to make redundant.

A meeting of ministers yesterday under Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, decided for the first time to apply provisions of the recently passed law on industrial reconversion, making possible a new form of payments out of the Cassa Integrazione or government relief fund.

Workers will be paid to do nothing (ill the authorities find alternative employment for them).

They will still nominally remain with Montefibre, though the company will bear no further financial charges for them.

Under previous Cassa Integrazione arrangements, the Cassa paid about 80 per cent of wages, while the employer was still responsible for certain residual payments.

Montefibre's management expects to discuss implementation of the Government's offer at a meeting in the Budget Ministry in the near future. Meanwhile it will be able to close certain plants, notably in Piedmont and in the south of Italy, where the 6,000 are employed.

Montefibre, one of the hardest-hit companies in the world textile and fibres crisis, has a workforce of about 28,000, of whom about 26,000 are in Italy. The remainder are employed in smaller plants in France, Spain and Malta.

The company, which met strong trade union opposition to its plan for 6,000 redundancies, has been steadily losing money throughout the year, though it is believed that this year's loss may be slightly below the 1976 level of 99,500m lire (166.6m).

A few weeks ago rumours circulated that Montefibre might be put into liquidation.

There was immediate opposition to the Government's offer from the trade unions. A spokesman for the Chemical Workers' Federation said their attitude was one of "straight refusal" of a measure which merely put workers into a parking area and created a dangerous precedent for other companies to follow.

The Government's move was "the exact opposite" of the trade demands for the withdrawal of the threat of dismissals and, the spokesman said, opened the door to "tens of thousands of dismissals".

UK dilemma over Hongkong textiles

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 9

Britain has been placed in an extraordinary position by the breakdown of talks between the EEC and Hongkong aimed at securing an agreement limiting the Crown Colony's export of textiles to the Community.

British sources spoke of a "delicate situation" and said diplomatic efforts were being made to "cool the atmosphere" on both sides.

Technically, Britain is ultimately responsible for Hongkong's government policy, but as a member of the EEC Britain has played a dominant role in forging the tough negotiating stand adopted by the Community in its negotiations with the colony and more than 30 other textile producers.

The truth is that the interests of ourselves and Britain are diametrically opposed," Hongkong officials said. Talks with Hongkong were suspended indefinitely last night after the colony refused the EEC offer of an import quota of 138,000 tonnes next year—13,000 tonnes less than the volume of textiles imported in 1976.

Hongkong also objected to the EEC's division of product categories which, it says, would disrupt existing trading patterns.

We are not prepared to accept the EEC's right arbitrarily to redistribute a large part of our trade to other suppliers," Mr Lawrence Mills, the colony's chief negotiator, told *The Times*. He said that Hongkong was

prepared to hold its textile exports to last year's level but would not reduce them beyond that. "This is the crunch point of the negotiations," he added. London has been at the receiving end of serious protests from Hongkong against what are regarded as bullying tactics by the EEC negotiators. One source described the protests as containing "some of the strongest language ever seen" in a diplomatic telegram.

Hongkong is the biggest textile supplier, and negotiations with the colony thus to a large extent determine what the Community will be able to offer other smaller suppliers.

The European Commission, which negotiates on behalf of the Nine, has given a warning that unless satisfactory agree-

ments are concluded by November 30 with all the major suppliers it will be unable to approve a renewal of the December of the Geneva Multi Fibre Arrangement. The EEC would instead impose unilateral import curbs.

Mr Mills said he hoped an agreement could still be reached but he felt the next step would be for him to report the facts to the Hongkong government.

He added that so far the talks had been conducted as if Britain and its colony had no constitutional link, and he insisted that there had been no attempt by Britain to apply pressures.

In a statement issued last night the Commission said its offer of an import ceiling of 138,000 tonnes remained

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government inhibits worker participation

From Mr I. E. C. Grant

Sir, Your summary of the measures to be included by the Government in the new session of Parliament must, in many cases, promote hollow laughter from those directly involved with the subjects mentioned.

About seven and a half years ago I was (and remain) a partner in the instigation of a small company dedicated to worker participation and profit-sharing, and the Labour Government has been in power during this period, but has neither promoted any legislation to assist such companies, nor even thought in detail of the problems related to such things, but very obviously no attempt has ever been made, or indeed probably will be made, to create conditions under which such companies can flourish.

Firstly, forming such a company the founders are, by its conception, prevented from selling their shareholding to merchant banks or others to realize capital profits without incurring lower taxation (which would be the normal capitalist operation), and indeed in our company the shares must be sold at asset value to those workers and directors remaining in the company. No principle may make a major capital profit and retire to a country estate to prosper on his "sweated brow" of his workers.

This is a fine concept, but for many years the Labour Government would not allow pensions to be created in such a company to justify principals

giving up the capital element without such pensions becoming doubly taxed. Only in recent years has the pension limit on taxation been increased marginally.

Secondly, in spite of the concept of the company, no untaxed or reduced tax reserves can be built up easily as a safeguard for employees in their future employment with the company without the Inland Revenue either insisting on distribution as a dividend to shareholders (who are the workers), as highly-taxed "unearned" income, or to put reserves after corporation tax, which, if paid out at a later date as salaries, would result in such a diminution of income as to be ridiculous.

I am not a tax expert, and I may be wrong in minor parts of these comments, but in general a Labour Government has not only done nothing to help worker participation companies, or even to start to assist them, it has deliberately instigated a taxation policy that causes great difficulties for such enterprises to function fairly and without hardship or strain.

Electioneering is one thing, but electioneering based on suggesting assistance is given when it has not been, and where the past record is totally obstructive, gets so close to deception as to be intolerable.

Yours faithfully,
I. E. C. GRANT,
Manor Cottage,
Bookham Common,
Bookham,
Surrey,
November 4.

Currency premium surrender 'irrelevant'

From Mr D. F. McCurrach

Sir, In comment on the Chancellor's recent measures, currency premium surrender is repeatedly coupled with exchange restriction (see in particular your correspondence David Blake and Caroline Atkinson quoting Treasury and Bank of England officials views in this sense, *The Times* November 2, 1977) as if it were a form of exchange control and a restraint on the export of capital.

It is neither. It is an arbitrary tax on transactions wholly within a closed pool of British owned foreign assets and between British residents, transactions which can, by exchange regulation, involve no net purchase of foreign currency.

It has no more effect in restraining the movement of capital out of the country than would a tax on U.K. transactions in the shares of international companies quoted and traded in sterling, indeed less since the latter may be acquired from a foreign resident.

And, as a tax on turnover, it does no more than inhibit competent management of a substantial national pool of overseas assets.

It is important that those who are opposed, whether political or economic policy grounds, to the export of capital should understand that the currency premium surrender is no part of the armory and is an irrelevance.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID F. MCCURRACH,
Chairman,
The Alliance Trust Company,
Limited,
Meadow House,
64 Reform Street,
Dundee, DD1 1TJ.

Mullard 'not ready' for Hitachi deal

By Derek Harris

Mullard, Britain's sole remaining colour television tube manufacturer, is not yet ready to accept an Hitachi offer to buy 25,000 of its tubes a year from 1980.

This was made clear last night by Mr Jack Akerman, Mullard's managing director, who said that a "significant programme" of technical work still remained to be completed by Mullard tubes with the chassis of Hitachi sets. Mullard is at the centre of a controversy over the Japanese company's proposed factory in the North-east. Hitachi representatives told a meeting of Labour MPs from the North-east earlier this week that technical studies had been completed by Hitachi and a formal offer to buy Mullard tubes had been made.

Mr Akerman said last night: "For our part we must be absolutely satisfied that our merchandise is going to be used in a technical environment where it will perform well and live well."

If all the technical points are answered and we are satisfied, then it would be acceptable for Mullard and Hitachi to trade together in the event that Hitachi's new factory were welcomed to this country by the Government."

He emphasized that with Mullard's 2.5million tube-a-year capacity under-used at present, any new customer would be welcome, but the question had to be asked how many of the sales would be at the expense of Mullard's present customers.

Mullard, which at present produces only the more compact 110 degree tubes in Britain, is tooling up for a restricted production run of 90 degree 20-inch tubes, Mr Akerman disclosed.

Production would start in July and would peak at about 500,000 tubes a year.

Government finances aided by big debt repayments

Continued from page one

of the factors which might have blown the forecasts off course have tended to work in the opposite direction.

Growth has been slower and employment lower than expected, while retail sales are very sluggish. The explanation available would seem to be that the equations used to predict how much tax revenue would flow in were just wrong. The error on the spending side is less important. Consolidated Fund expenditure, which is about 90 per cent of the total, has only been 9 per cent above last year's level compared to a forecast of 10 per cent in the Budget.

In evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Monday Treasury officials estimated that underspending accounts for £250m of the £2,000m revision downwards in total borrowing need whilst higher revenue accounts for £1,750m.

One major bonus for the Government's finances in the past seven months is that nationalized industries have been repaying debt very heavily which is a reflection of their relative prosperity.

The two biggest repayers out of the £57m net which has flowed back have been the national oil account, which repaid £340m as a result of the British National Oil Corporation's large loan from overseas and the Gas Corporation which repaid £28m.

Loans to local authority are well above their level of last year, on the other hand, because the Treasury now pursues a policy of phasing their borrowing carefully throughout the year. Local authorities borrowed £214m in October as a new tranche of loan money became available.

The overall picture to emerge from the latest figures is that the fiscal stance of Government has been very high indeed during the first seven months of this financial year.

Fisons to stock more ammonia

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Fisons, Britain's major fertilizer producer, has applied for planning permission to undertake substantial expansion of its ammonia stocks tanks at Immingham, Humberside.

The move is bound to increase speculation that this is a prudent arrangement to lessen present dependence on Imperial Chemical Industries. ICI's present contract to supply half Fisons' ammonia until the summer of 1981 has been rendered less valuable by the recent increase in prices ICI pay for North Sea gas.

An intriguing round of negotiations between Fisons and ICI appears inevitable in the coming months now that ICI has to face a substantial increase in natural gas prices from the 1976-77 to 1984. Cheap North Sea gas has enabled ICI to make ammonia at an attractive price.

Industry sources say ICI may wish to use ammonia for its own nitrogen fertilizer activities to reap better margins on a new cost structure than by sustaining Fisons at an uneconomic price.

There is talk that Fisons, said to be paying £50 a ton, could face justifiable claims from ICI for up to £70 a ton from January 1.

Nationalized board members' pay study

By Malcolm Brown

Nationalized industry board members are studying legal opinion prepared for the Institution of Professional Civil Servants on action against the Government to force it to implement increases in top salaries.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Association of Members of State Industries Boards decided that it would keep in close liaison with the Institution, which has already decided, on the basis of its legal advice, to take action.

Over the next three weeks members of the association will be considering whether there is sufficiently close identity between civil board members and top civil servants for the two groups to collaborate on legal moves.

Appointments Vacant also on page 26

Pilots HS125

RTZ runs an executive HS 125 for UK and European operations. The following appointments are now available:

Senior Captain

The minimum qualifications are ALTP and Performance A, 5000 hours of which 1000 hours should be PI twin jet. Type rating preferred.

Co-Pilot

British Commercial Pilots Licence, Performance A and a current instrument rating essential.

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Starting salary between £2,850 and £3,480. Promotion to a salary range £4,420 - £5,220 usually follows within 3-4 years; with further prospects to £11,000. Additional Inner London Allowance of £485 (Outer London £275).

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For a booklet, giving further information and examples of the experience of previous trainees, and an application form (to be returned by 7 December 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Almonck Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1J8, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answer 12) to a special desk (outside office hours). Please quote A1343/2

Assistant, Environmental and Land Use Department

The CBI is looking for a graduate to work on industrial aspects of minerals and land use policy and legislation; and possibly also some of the broader issues of industrial environmental policy.

Applicants should be competent administrators, able to express themselves clearly and concisely both orally and in writing, and capable of liaising with CBI members and Government and local authority officials at all levels. A legal, scientific or engineering degree would be a considerable advantage.

Salary will be between £3000-£3500 per annum, according to age, qualifications and experience.

Applicants should write to Miss Jane Hopkinson in the Personnel Department, at CBI, 21 Titchill Street, London SW1H 9LP, or telephone 01-930 8711 ext 5.

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Thames and Hudson invite applications for an experienced person to join their production team.

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He/she will be expected and encouraged to work on their own initiative and to tackle problems at all levels. A foreign language would be useful.

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Major Merchant Bank in Guernsey wishes to appoint a Senior Executive

The appointment, which is permanent, would suit an accountant or lawyer between the ages of 30 and 40. Applicants, who should have a detailed knowledge of taxation and exchange control regulations, as well as some commercial experience, must be prepared to travel. Experience in trust matters would be particularly helpful.

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An attractive remuneration package is offered. Please apply with full details of your career to: Miss Mary O'Brien, Foster Turner & Benson, Chancery House, Chancery Lane, LONDON WC2A 1QU, marking the envelope FTB.

All applications will be passed unopened to our client. Please mention on the envelope any companies to whom your application should not be sent.

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The Council for the Protection of Rural England requires a Fund Raiser to maintain and develop its money-raising activities at national and branch level. Experience preferred. The successful applicant must be prepared to work irregular hours, to do a good deal of travelling and hold a current driving licence. 4 weeks' annual holiday.

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For application form (returnable by 15th November) write to CPRE, 4 Hobart Place, London SW1W 0BY.

VISITING ARTS UNIT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Visiting Arts Unit, a new agency administered by the British Council with funds contributed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Arts Council and the Gulbenkian Foundation, is seeking a Deputy Director who will have responsibility for the Unit's day-to-day operations and for the performing arts.

Applicants must have a good general education, previous experience of the administration of concert and/or theatre tours, a good knowledge of British musical provision for the arts and an appreciation of them and of British audience reactions. Additional qualifications would be a university degree, training in one of the performing arts, fluency in at least one foreign language, and administrative experience.

The appointment will be on contract initially for about two years. The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the Unit's service including London Headquarters and its representatives in the British Isles and overseas.

For further details and an application form to be returned by 15th November, please write to: The British Council, 11 St James's Street, London W1Y 2AA. Telephone: 01-290 8011, ext. 3641.

NALGO

HAS A VACANCY FOR A DISTRICT OFFICER IN ITS EAST MIDLAND DISTRICT, BASED AT NOTTINGHAM. Duties include trade union organising activities, representing the Association and its members in various public services, and participation in the work of negotiating bodies under the direction of the District Organisation Officer.

Salary scale is £5,209-£5,928 per annum. A car is provided (applicants must hold a current driving licence).

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION: 5 x 2 1/2" ENVELOPE TO: TOGETHER WITH A SELF-ADDRESSED

THE GENERAL SECRETARY, 1 MARLBOROUGH PLACE, LONDON W1M 6AJ
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Corporation of London Staff Association ADMINISTRATOR

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above position.

The person appointed will be responsible for the running of the Association under the direction of the General Secretary and will involve negotiating with the Corporation on pay and staff conditions and overseeing the day-to-day running of the Association.

Membership is about 1,200.

Conditions of service are those of the Corporation and will be subject to the usual rules of the Corporation.

Within applications, please state your qualifications, experience, and salary requirements. Applications should be sent to: The General Secretary, Corporation of London Staff Association, 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-476 2444.

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Cross committee calls for tribunals to hear claims of accounting incompetence

By Nicholas Hirst

Accountants should set up tribunals to investigate alleged cases of professional incompetence affecting the public interest. This is the main recommendation of a cross-committee report, chaired by Lord Cross of Chelsea, which was set up 12 months ago by the English and Scottish Institutes of Chartered Accountants and the Association of Certified Accountants.

Its terms of reference were: "To consider to what extent, if any, the investigatory and disciplinary powers of the three bodies may require to be changed to enable them to deal both effectively and justly with allegations of unsatisfactory professional work by any member."

Setting up of the Cross committee followed publication of a Department of Trade Inspector's report which had criticized accountants, coupled with growing public concern that the accountancy profession had inadequate powers to discipline its own members.

The Cross committee divided the problems of professional incompetence into those which involved the public interest through the auditing of public accounts, and those which did not. The

report decided there was no need to extend the present disciplinary powers in private cases.

In cases of public interest, while the institutions had powers to set over a member who had committed misconduct, Cross considered that this meant "bad behaviour" such as dishonesty which only in extreme cases could include poor workmanship.

The institutions had no express provision in their constitutions to deal with cases of professional incompetence, which nevertheless could have resulted in great loss.

He therefore proposed that there should be tribunals set up to examine such cases, which would normally arise from Department of Trade or similar reports.

Constitutions of the accountancy bodies should be amended accordingly so that the tribunals would have jurisdiction over all accountants, not just auditors, and that the jurisdiction should extend over all corporate bodies where the public interest might be affected, including unit trusts and building societies.

If the tribunals were to find the conduct of a member amounted to misconduct, and that finding was not reversed by any appeal procedure, Cross

recommended that it should be conclusive evidence for proceedings of the existing disciplinary committees.

But if the tribunals found that bad workmanship only had been established "it should censure the member in terms appropriate to the degree of the shortcoming established."

However, the Cross report sees a number of problems in setting up such tribunals including the difficulty of finding finance for the costly investigations which would be necessary to follow Department of Trade reports, and because at present the institutions do not have the power to call for witnesses outside the profession.

It might be that these powers could be given if an investigation could be brought within the Arbitration Act, but Lord Cross said at a press conference yesterday that he was far from certain that this could be done.

In matters of incompetence or delay involving a private client the report suggests that where complaints about a particular practice have been frequently received, the partners should agree to an inspection by an "advisory service" which would also be available on request, as a condition of renewal of their practicing certificates.

Financial Editor, page 21

Travel agents see likelihood of price war next year when resale agreement ends

From Patricia Tiedall
London, Nov 9

A price war between Britain's 4,000 travel agents could break out next year following the abandonment of resale price maintenance. Widespread discounting by agents, followed by British Airways' dropping of a similar restriction this year.

Delegates at the final session of the Association of British Travel Agents' annual convention in London today were told about the likelihood of similar practices spreading to the retail trade as well as a range of special incentives from travel agents to free transportation to airports.

ABTA, which is strongly opposed to discretionary competition among agents, has been dropping all rules restricting prices and commission levels from April 1 after discussions with the Office of Fair Trading and government officials.

It is still hoped that excessive discounting will be curbed through trading agreements drawn up individually between agents and operators. But it became clear at the conference that such agreements would not be comprehensive.

So far only Horizon Midland and Comoros have undertaken to maintain the same price in every outlet and not to permit an agency to sell at a different price. Even if the others follow the form of contract suggested by ABTA this would not restrict excessive activity carried out by the travel agent.

Dropping of the price maintenance clause from the association's code of practice is one of 16 agreements now abandoned as a result of the new restrictive practices legislation. In return the Office of Fair Trading has undertaken to allow at least a year before it refers the case to court. The association maintains it is crucial

to its future existence to the Restrictive Practices Court.

ABTA is using the respite to strengthen its case for retaining this clause, which restricts non-members from selling holidays.

Conflicting views about next year's holiday sales prospects are being taken by the tour operators. Comoros, which announced its programme for 1978 yesterday, is expecting to carry only about the same number of people on inclusive air holidays as this year. Comoros is launching a new holiday from its coach tour division.

But Thomson Holidays, which has the biggest share of sales, says that early demand for holidays has been higher than at any time since 1974. At the same time the company is hedging its bets by re-introducing a programme of low-cost air fares from November to April which will stop any unused full price inclusive holiday air charter seats.

Gold price jumps \$2 to reach two-year peak

By Caroline Atkinson

Gold closed \$2 higher at \$167.875 an ounce in London last night, its highest closing level for over two years. The price jumped up again, despite some profit-taking, as investor interest continues to be strong and commercial demand has held up notwithstanding the recent price increase.

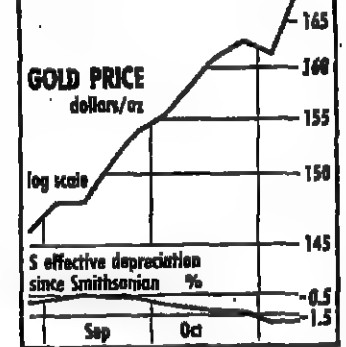
As the gold price has climbed steadily in the past few months, more speculators and investors have been attracted into the market, in particular from New York.

Dealers generally expect the price to continue, although profit-taking should ensure that it is not excessive. The dollar had a better day on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, largely as a result of the statement by Dr Arthur Burns, chairman, Federal Reserve, that the Fed had decided to lower the targets for M2 and M3 money growth.

He also said that the Government supported a strong dollar. The dollar closed up 35 points in Germany at DM2.26 and recovered from 246.7 yen to 247.10.

No pound had a mixed day, mainly following the movements of the dollar after a sharp fall in the morning.

This came as most dealers



began to doubt the story that the Saudi Arabians were about to seek for some oil payments in sterling. Trading was fairly thin and the Bank of England was scarcely, if at all, in the market.

Sterling closed \$1.95 down at \$1.8090, with an effective rate of \$3.6, 10p higher than yesterday's last calculation.

The Canadian dollar plunged to another new closing low against the American dollar of 89.765 United States cents. This was in reaction to a call from Canada's Economic Council of Canada to boost export measures to boost growth in Canada, and to continued fears over political instability in Quebec.

Ferranti raises £25m loan with Chase group

By Christopher Wilkins

Three years after being rescued by the government, Ferranti has arranged loan facilities totalling £25m from a banking consortium which will enable it to repay government loans and its outstanding overdraft.

Progressive recovery of Ferranti's fortunes since 1974 is reflected in the loan arrangement. The government is expected to repay the £15m into the electrical and electronics group in return for a 62.5 per cent equity stake and 50 per cent of the voting rights. In the year to last March Ferranti made a £6.1m profit on sales of £125m.

The loan will take the form of two facilities, one of £18m from a consortium led by Chase Manhattan Bank, the other of £7m from Chase Manhattan Bank itself.

Final maturity of the loans will be seven years and interest will be at an undisclosed margin over interbank rates.

Proceeds will repay the loan of £6.33m made to Ferranti by the National Enterprise Board in 1974, but will not affect the government's equity holding. It will also pay off Ferranti's overdraft, which was put at £9.5m in March. The remainder will be available for future working capital requirements.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 203.89-1.45
The FT index: 482.3-9.9

Rises

Anglo Am Bldg 8p to 33p
Anglo Am Corp 9p to 26 1/2p
Bishops Stores 13p to 22 1/2p
Electrocomp 12p to 31 1/2p

Falls

Assam Trading 15p to 30 1/2p
Bechtel 12p to 6 1/2p
De La Rue 10p to 56 1/2p
Fisons 3p to 38 1/2p
Glen Acc 12p to 14 1/2p
Guardian Royal 10p to 23 1/2p
Lucas 10p to 27 1/2p
Morgan-Grupe 10p to 15 1/2p
Plessey 3p to 10 1/2p

Milbury 5p to 5 1/2p
Mowlem 11p to 12 1/2p
Premier P Cem 11p to 77 1/2p
Winkfield 13p to 57 1/2p

Reverts

Revert 6p to 7 1/2p
Royle 10p to 10 1/2p
Safeway J 10p to 21 1/2p
Stalder 10p to 21 1/2p
Sun Alliance 10p to 58 1/2p
Thorn 10p to 36 1/2p
Tiger Kemsley 10p to 42 1/2p
Tolliver 8p to 56 1/2p
Vickers 2p to 18 1/2p

Gold gained \$2 an ounce to \$167.875.
SDB-4 was 1.7992 on Wednesday, while SDB-4 was 1.647516.
Commodities: Future's index was at 1461.0 (previous 1462.21).
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Fed to tighten money policy further

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 9

The American Federal Reserve Board has decided to tighten its monetary policies still further. The decision reflects the Fed's continuing concern about the trend of United States inflation and about the recent weakening of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets.

Dr Arthur Burns, Fed chairman, said today that he expected the economic expansion to persist with possibly a 4.5 per cent real rate of economic growth in the coming year, but that in this period inflation was likely to rise again by 6 to 6.5 per cent. Firm monetary policies were, therefore, necessary.

He told the Senate's Banking Committee that the weakening of the dollar was adding to the nation's inflation problems and it could also cause "serious international difficulties". He concluded: "We dare not, therefore, be complacent about the current depreciating tendencies of the dollar."

Dr Burns said the Fed had decided to leave its growth target range for M1 unchanged at 4 to 6.5 per cent for the year ahead, but it would lower both the ceiling and base limits of its ranges for M2 and M3 by one half of a percentage

point to 6.5 to 9 per cent for M2 and to 8 to 10.5 per cent for M3.

Dr Burns stressed that "a crucial consideration in lowering the long-term ranges for the broader aggregates was the committee's (the Fed's open market committee) wish to reaffirm its intent of gradually bringing down the growth of the monetary aggregates to rates compatible with reasonable price stability."

Under questioning from Senator Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, Dr Burns stated: "I feel some sort of income policy will have to be developed in this country." He said he did not want to elaborate on this at this time in view of the great number of uncertainties now facing businessmen and the prospect that discussion of incomes policies will only add to these uncertainties.

However, after being pressed by the senator, Dr Burns said the Federal Government should give a lead by setting lower wage rises for its personnel. There was no doubt in his mind that some of the current problems facing the nation's steel industry were due to the "over-sized" wage increases that had been seen in the industry.

In answers to other questions from senators he criticized repeatedly the Congress for failing to take actions to strengthen the prospects for increased

business profits. He said new social security tax increases and legislation to raise the minimum wage would add to production costs, possibly lower consumer spending and increase inflation. He felt that Congress recently had been legislating inflation.

Dr Burns called for permanent tax cuts and for plans by the Congress and the Administration that also involved real cuts in public expenditure. He said that for the full 1978 fiscal year it now appeared that the total Federal Government deficit would be \$69,000m (\$38,333m), which was almost \$16,000m greater than the 1977 deficit.

He also pointed out that in the six months to the end of next March the United States Treasury would probably have to borrow about \$10,000m more than it did in the corresponding year earlier period.

Dr Burns was confident that the economic recovery would continue, although it was unlikely that unemployment in the year ahead would fall below 6.5 per cent from its current 7 per cent rate.

He noted that the Fed believed the economy was now growing at a faster pace than was seen in the third quarter of this year when real gross national product rose at an annual rate of 3.8 per cent.



Sir James Goldsmith yesterday: ready to bow out as chairman.

Sir James set to end Britannia Arrow reign

By Bryan Appleyard

Sir James Goldsmith seems ready to end his reign as chairman of Britannia Arrow Holdings, formerly Slater, Walker Securities, after two years in a job that he originally forecast would occupy him for six months.

Announcing the departure of two directors from the board at yesterday's annual meeting, Sir James said the directors had now largely achieved what they had set out to do in October 1975.

An announcement about the "further restructuring of the board" would be made as soon as it was appropriate to do so.

Sir James expects the company, now largely an insurance and investment management group, to break even in 1978 following the losses announced in the first six months of this year of £1.6m, against £6.3m last year.

The two directors who are leaving the board are Mr Dominique Leca and Mr Derek Thomson, whose areas of activity have been moved off.

Sir James told shareholders that the company had agreed property sales recently totalling £21.6m on top of the £14m sold to Slater, Walker Limited, which itself was sold to the Bank of England for £25m. These disposals include the

largest remaining property—an office block in Brussels.

He reported that the company now held investment and dealing property to a book value of £12m after deduction of the remaining provision against losses of £6.4m. The board thought these properties could be realized in excess of book value, but believed any reduction in the provision to be inappropriate.

Additionally, £3.2m of investments have been realized at £700,000 over book value, making total realizations of £29m, of which £28.5m has been used to repay debts—almost all of them overseas.

For the future he pointed out that the insurance side was taking on no general business, and was concentrating its expansion on the life side.

Overall, prospects were strongly influenced by factors beyond the board's control, such as interest rates and the performance of markets.

Mr Ivor Kennington, a director, said the consideration of preference dividend arrears against ordinary dividends would have to be considered by the board in due course.

Sir James said the shareholders could be sure that this board or its successors would give the payment of dividends full priority when the trading position made it possible.

Mr Shore outlines his £400m spending plans

By John Huxley

As expected, the bulk of the £400m additional expenditure for the construction and civil engineering industries in 1978-79 announced by the Chancellor last month will go into the building sector, especially housing.

In announcing spending details yesterday, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said civil engineering would also benefit from the increased expenditure on roads and some of the other environmental services.

He said that the increases would halt the decline in departmental construction programmes and give scope for modest increases in some sectors in 1978-79.

"This will keep these programmes at a steady level, and should produce greater stability for the industry."

Mr Shore explained that a large part of that expenditure would be undertaken by local authorities.

In England, housing will receive about half of the money available, enabling housing associations and authorities to restore some of the 1976 cuts and put the housing capital programme back on to a rising trend, he said.

The breakdown of expenditure is: housing, £150m; other environmental services, £235m; health and personal services, £37m; education, £26m; transport, £23m; defence, £8m; trade, £8m; Home Office services, £5m; Property Services Agency, £3m; Lord Chancellor's department services, £3m; employment, £1m; agriculture, £0.7m; fisheries, food and forestry, £0.3m; and other public services, £1m.

Programmes within the responsibilities of the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland receive £76m.

A further £24m has been left unallocated and is available for other purposes.

British Waterways Board will receive £5m to undertake urgent repair and maintenance work, and further £5m will go to the Urban Programme.

Mr Shore has decided not to introduce any scheme for imposing fees for building regulation applications next year. This means that local authorities in England and Wales will forgo an estimated £13m in revenue.

"I shall, therefore, be allowing local authorities an additional £13m out of the £400m to cover as relevant expenditure for the purposes of the rate support grant settlement, which I shall be making shortly."

Reaction from the construction industry to the £400m package has been muted, largely by disappointment that the aid was not being made immediately available.

Productivity deal may give sugar men 19 pc rise

By Roger Violevoe

Revised plans by Occidental Petroleum for a six million barrel-a-day oil refinery at Canvey Island in Essex have been rejected by Castle Point District Council.

The company, which already had permission for a simple hydro-skimming plant, wanted to include a catalytic cracker to produce more gasoline and chemical feedstocks in the revamped project.

Occidental began work on the hydro-skimming plant in 1974 but suspended operations early the following year after £55m had been spent. It said at the time there was no longer any market for a refinery orientated towards the production of fuel oils.

The revised scheme would cost about £200m. Occidental said yesterday it could still complete the hydro-skimming refinery but would appeal against the council's rejection

Canvey rejects new Occidental refinery plans

By Roger Violevoe

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Progress on UK role in European options

From Richard Allen
Amsterdam, Nov 9

A number of potential obstacles to the success of the European Options Exchange, which is scheduled to open in Amsterdam next April, could be removed within a few weeks.

According to Mr E. M. Lemberger, chairman of the EOE, negotiations with the Bank of England concerning British participation in options on the Amsterdam exchange covering domestic United Kingdom stocks have been "positive and cordial".

He said he did not envisage any objections from the Bank as long as the funds involved in transactions on British stock options remained within the London system.

Exchange control restrictions—in particular the surrender rule introduced by the Bank last year—are expected to be removed in international stock options traded in Holland. But the Amsterdam Stock Exchange expects significant London interest in the five British stock options it plans to include in an opening list covering 20 international securities.

The other underlying securities are expected to be made up of five Dutch internationals, including perhaps Unilever, Royal Dutch/Shell and Philips, five United States leaders and five drawn from the rest of Europe.

Although 310 applications for seats on the new exchange have already been received, it is felt that several would be participants—particularly from overseas—are holding back until the articles of association of the EOE have been approved.

Referring to one other potential obstacle, the possible refusal of the American Securities and Exchange Commission to provide the American exchange with associate status, Mr Lemberger said that this would not prevent the EOE making a "parallel" market in options covering the same underlying securities.

It is understood that a number of British stockbroking firms and merchant banks have shown interest and more than two-thirds of the members of the London Traded Option Users' Association have made written applications.

However, applications to date represent no more than letters of agreement in principle and the final test will come when interested groups are asked to put up cash for seats after incorporation of the clearing company.

An interesting aspect of the Amsterdam proposal is that all options traded will be dealt in the domestic currency of the underlying security, thus largely removing the effects of currency fluctuations from traded option movements.

Mr Lemberger claimed that this was in part a reflection of the EOE's determination not to create a gambling casino atmosphere. Comments on the SEC decision recently to clamp down on options growth followed evidence of abuses, Mr Lemberger said: "You can make money out of any business."

The option clearing company expects to complete development work including a computerized settlement system by January and market trials should start during February.

BSC borrows £53m

British Steel has borrowed £52.7m from the European Investment Bank to help meet the cost of the £220m expansion scheme at the Ravenscroft works at Motherwell.

The loan, for 12 years at 8.75 per cent, is the biggest ever made by the bank.

Industry presses for power supply priorities to avoid factory chaos

By Our Industrial Staff

There was mounting alarm in industry yesterday over the threat of chaos in factories, power stations and essential commercial installations without prompt Government action to establish electricity supply priorities. Revisions of present area-by-area power load shedding arrangements seem inevitable as the winter power station workers propose unofficial strike action.

Worries are heightened by the parallel threat of a withdrawal of public fire fighting and prevention facilities. British industry already maintains its own capability to deal with fires and hazards to production, but it is heavily dependent on power supplies.

Yesterday, works managers and fire prevention staff were reviewing urgently their arrangements, identifying problems if power cuts worsen as the Central Electricity Generating Board defends the national grid system under its minute-by-minute regional control arrangements.

Many big plants maintain emergency generators but the problem is that they depend heavily on public supply for normal working. Pumps, compressors, ventilators, fire prevention equipment, control instrumentation of all kinds, refrigeration processes, furnaces, electro-firing mechanisms are all vulnerable to loss of power.

The Government is keeping in close touch with the CEBG and, if there seems clear threats

to security of the system from sudden deterioration in the balance of supply and demand (some very big power stations are poised for the unofficial action), then suspension of the board's statutory duty to maintain supplies will be inevitable.

Contingency arrangements are thought to provide for more drastic action, probably to reduce demand by between 10 and 20 per cent, controlled if necessary by government regulations to give priority to industrial customers wherever possible.

In the coal strike and the powermen's work to rule in the autumn of 1974, the Government took the last little time in effecting statutory cuts of one-fifth in supplies.

The CEBG is faced with the problem that its skilled power engineers, who have put in extra effort in recent weeks, cannot be expected now to cover for men on strike. There is a limit to their patience as well as duties when not involved themselves in the unofficial dispute.

The consequences of strike action in power stations are being taken very seriously. When the men involved first threatened to take unofficial action few viewed the consequences seriously, but the cuts of recent weeks have changed attitudes very rapidly.

Matters are worsened by the fire cover problems. Industry is always prone to fires. Even with full protection arrangements there are constant outbreaks for one reason or another. Most vulnerable are

premises in the chemical, engineering, distribution, paper and textile industries.

ICI's safety adviser said that all safety systems at ICI sites were designed to cope with the possibility of such eventualities as a national grid failure. All sites have their own power units; at the big Wilton site in the North-East ICI even has its own power station. There was concern that during a firemen's strike they would be without any backup facility.

Oil companies take particularly stringent precautions to ensure that every possible failure is built into the system. Shell UK said that in addition to full-time fire officers, all their security men were professional fire fighters.

In the event of a fire they can call on a special nucleus of workers from the site who act as auxiliary fire fighters.

Shell said that every person working on a Shell refinery had some training in fire fighting. All units were geared to coping with hydrocarbon fires.

The National Coal Board said that all pits had their own underground fire units. These could, if necessary, be used to cope with surface fires. They could also call on the fire fighting teams held in reserve at central rescue stations in the coalfields. But if there was a power failure work underground would have to stop.

Pits had their own generating equipment, but it was only sufficient to operate such machinery as cages to bring men to the surface.

MILN MARSTERS

Agricultural seed specialists

Another record year

with 61% increase in profit to £924,740. Maximum dividend recommended.

Bonus issue

of one new share for every two shares held approved.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Accountants and the public interest

The Cross Report on the disciplinary procedures of the major United Kingdom accountancy bodies has put the profession in a very tight corner. Suggestions for improving the monitoring of complaints of inadequate work for private clients are not contentious and are likely to be accepted with alacrity by the institutes, but in considering the question of professional competence involving the public interest, Cross enters much stonier ground. For if the solution he proposes proves not to be workable the alternative could be a statutory authority appointed by the Government.

So to some extent accountants risk losing their valued independence. But there is a growing understanding that the problems of self-regulation for a professional body, which provides the most important check against fraud and managerial error on behalf of the investing public is different both in kind and complexity from self-regulation of the City's markets.

The Cross Report suggests the accountancy bodies set up a tribunal with appeal machinery, including a layman with financial knowledge, to examine bad workmanship which has come to its attention as a result of a Department of Trade Inspector's or similar reports. If misconduct is established, the cases may be dealt with by the institutes' existing disciplinary rules, but if professional incompetence only is found, the tribunal would publish an appropriate censure statement.

Considering the statutory alternative, Cross says it would be illogical to set up any statutory tribunal whose jurisdiction was confined solely to accountants, as there may be many others who have had a hand in incompetence resulting in the public's loss.

The guardians of the financial community are not accountants generally, but accountants acting as auditors. An accountant who is a director is in the same position as a lawyer who is a director, the fact of his professional background is irrelevant. The public is concerned that the guardians it asks to check accounts, checks them properly, and when they fail to do so are seen to be punished.

The attractions of a limited statutory authority to do this may be too great for either the profession or the Department of Trade to ignore.

J Sainsbury

Feeling the Tesco squeeze

Guarded comments from Sainsbury on the current trading outlook can only strengthen the views of those who think it is time to be selling food retailers' shares while they still command a premium rating. Sainsbury's own results are entirely respectable. Sales are up by 24½ per cent to £406m, profits are



Mr John Sainsbury, chairman of J. Sainsbury.

16.4 per cent ahead at £12.5m, and volume sales are 4 per cent higher against a grocery trade drop of about the same amount.

But the pressure on margins apparent in the first half, and noted on Tuesday by AB Foods, is evidently continuing under the impact of the increasingly competitive conditions sparked off by Tesco.

All of this leaves the industry as a whole looking exposed. The days when profits rose because food prices were climbing much faster than costs are now effectively over, and the two seem likely to move much more in tandem.

Meanwhile, Sainsbury itself is not expecting a repeat this year of the extraordinarily buoyant second half in 1976-77, so profit growth in this period may not be much more

than 10 per cent for full year profits of close to £30m against £26.2m last time. That leaves the shares at 217p selling at over 12 times prospective earnings and yielding 4 per cent, a generous enough rating in the circumstances.

General Accident

A favourite candidate

In the composite insurance sector the market's current preoccupation is with likely North American performance over the next year or so, and here General Accident, with a powerful position and the best balance sheet ratios among British composites, emerges as a favourite candidate. Most analysts agree that operating results from the United States and Canada will improve through to at least the end of next year; rates rising on all lines, claims ratios are good and in Canada there are real hopes that the Anti-Inflation Board will soon relax its rules.

Yesterday's third quarter results should support all the optimistic assumptions about GA. True worldwide underwriting, after break-even in the second quarter, slipped back into the red, leaving running underwriting losses of £8.3m, against £14.8m, after nine months. In the United Kingdom motor and homeowners' accounts are still loss-making, the latter continuing to reflect subsidised claims, though fire remains profitable.

In the United States, of course, the improvement everyone is expecting began to show with a third quarter underwriting profits of £0.1m reducing running losses so far to £4.5m against £10.4m at this stage last year. Third quarter operating ratio was 99.05 per cent, and after nine months there was a 3½ point improvement to 101.12 per cent. Given the impact of year-end provisions on this latest figure and the remarkable improvement (helped still by the effects of the rights issue) in investment income, GA profits seem set for something over £70m this year, against £42.6m.

The interesting point though is what potential there is for a substantial dividend increase should controls come off next year. At 240p the shares yield just over 5 per cent assuming 10 per cent more this year, but the payment will be covered nearly four times, and GA's North American liquidity suggests that it is better able than many to remit back to the United Kingdom for distribution.

Tuesday night's news that the sterling Eurobond market has been resurrected after spending the past few years on ice is, of course, no more than a reflection of the revival in investor confidence in sterling over the past few months. True, the European Coal and Steel Community issue was not particularly large at £15m (and was specifically for on-lending to the United Kingdom). But investor interest has, apparently, been strong, and other issues are thought to be in the pipeline.

It is still early days, however, to forecast that the market could develop in a sizeable way. For a start, the revived investor confidence in sterling has still to be consolidated. Second, there is the question as to the numbers of potential borrowers.

There are, perhaps, two most obvious types of possible borrower. The first would be the overseas company investing in sterling assets and, not therefore, so worried about any further appreciation in sterling. But it could well be that the recent announced relaxation of exchange controls, giving considerably greater freedom to overseas controlled United Kingdom companies to borrow domestic sterling, could reduce this potential source of demand to the extent that these companies can meet their requirements by borrowing medium-term funds on a floating rate basis from the banks.

The second type of potential borrower could well be British companies, particularly British companies wishing to expand overseas—and companies which may, perhaps, be rather more bullish about the medium-term prospects for sterling than some potential investors in sterling bonds. The real problem for many of these companies, however, continues to be less one of access to loan markets for funding overseas expansion than that of being allowed to push rather more of their own funds overseas other than through the dollar premium.

Bakeries become heated over the politics of bread

The politics of bread, an ever-present spectre, entered a period of high drama yesterday with the reappearance with a flourish of one of the leading actors who had occupied the stage in January.

Mr Jackson Moore, general secretary of the United Road Transport Union, which, among others, represents bread delivery men, waited the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, where he saw Mr Ivor Lightman, Deputy Secretary in charge of prices.

Mr Lightman, too, was in the centre of the stage early this year. That was when Mr Hattersley, having recently succeeded Mr Shirley Williams as Secretary of State, announced that he was going to dismantle the discount controls that she had imposed to stop the largest bread companies destroying each other in ferocious competition.

In January the union refused to deliver bread to grocers who enjoyed unusually large discounts from bakers.

Mr Hattersley has not yet reappeared from the wings, but he will surely do so, perhaps in the House of Commons, to announce like Gilbert and Sullivan's Mollie that his object all sublimed, which he will achieve in time to make the price of a loaf lower than it would otherwise have been.

The present proposed increase in the price of bread will put bakers back under the spotlight of food policies once again. This is precisely what they do not wish to be: they feel that they have been placed there more than enough by a succession of governments.

Prices of many fresh foods have fallen this year and the rate of increase in the food sector is slowing down. A notification by the bakers of a rise of more than a tenth of the Government's ceiling on the price of their product is bound to stand out amid the general food price increases elsewhere.

The companies want their rises to take effect in less than three weeks. They want to recover the cost of the recent strike by bakery workers over

... the siege mentality which characterizes the attitudes of the largest baking groups in the face of intervention by ministers and other areas of government and statutory bodies

payment for Bank Holiday working and they are also now in negotiation for a new national wage award.

Mr Moore claims that the proposed rises are simply the price the country must pay for the industry's failure to implement the discount policy which he numbers dated earlier in the year. It was a policy which Mr Hattersley rejected with determination, saying that he would never be drawn into fixing the wholesale price of bread.

He wanted to encourage shopkeepers to offer cut-price bread. To use the famous phrase which the Opposition failed to turn on him—as "lame ducks" was used to damage Mr John Davies in the last Conservative Government—he wanted bread prices to be "lower than they would otherwise be".

Although the notifications of the 3p rise on a loaf have been sent to the Price Commission, Mr Hattersley will be drawn in, too. Bread is one of the few foods for which maximum prices are fixed by ministers. It is the only one for which bakers' claims, Mr Hattersley will have an opportunity to use the increase at the end of



Dough pieces about to go into the bread oven: a new national pay award for bakery workers is being negotiated.

November to recast his complicated bread price Order.

It includes much more than a maximum price for bread. It contains different maxima for different loaves in various parts of the country. The Orkney loaf has a different Hattersley price from the Ceredigion loaf. At the same time the Order specifies the extent to which shopkeepers must pass on prices according to the size of the discounts they receive from manufacturers. Such rule tape encourages the siege mentality which characterizes the attitudes of the largest baking groups in the face of intervention by ministers and other areas of government and statutory bodies.

Many food processors fear that they will be losers in an economic recovery and that increased consumer spending will be directed at other products than theirs. Scope for exporting bread is necessarily limited, so that the three largest baking groups, RHM, Spillers and Associated British Foods, must compete among themselves for market shares.

Together they supply well over half of the bread in the country and almost two thirds of bread is sold by grocers rather than retail bakers. The persistence of the trend to home baking and purchases of crusty bread after the bakery workers' strike in September have been exaggerated, but the trend is there on a limited scale and it worries the large baking groups.

Although the large, wrapped, sliced loaf still accounts for more than half of all bread sales, it is being undermined by other types of loaf associated with more traditional types of supplier. In the past those who disliked the wrapped loaf simply added it to their abuse of the observation that they have found a dear little man in a corner shop who bakes the most exquisite crusty bread and has a queue every morning.

Flour accounts for a third of the cost of a loaf and the exceptionally low quality of the British harvest this year has entailed greater imports of wheat, which is covered by a protective price support system of the Common Agricultural Policy. On costs and volume growth, therefore, the baking companies have little room for manoeuvre.

Indee they have nowhere to turn except towards each other's throats.

Hugh Clayton

Economic notebook

No common interest in The Common Fund

There can be little doubt that before long the world will see the creation of a new international agency called the Common Fund, perhaps located in London.

It may prove to be something less than the powerful, catalytic institution sought by the developing countries as a means of stabilizing international commodity prices and increasing their benefits from trade. But, with the proposals submitted this week to the negotiating conference in Geneva, the industrialized nations have at last shown themselves prepared to engage in serious discussion about the form and character of a Common Fund.

The positions of the developing and industrialized nations remain far apart, as is apparent from the opening shots from each side at the month-long conference, involving more than a hundred countries, which began on Monday.

In a nutshell the Third World states want the establishment of an institution with its own financial resources—obtained from government subscriptions and private loans—which would be used to build up buffer stocks to support the market operations of individual commodity organizations.

Under these proposals it would also have a so-called "second window" through which money would be channelled to help poor nations to diversify out of unprofitable crops, as well as supporting other measures, such as the promotion of new marketing techniques and research into fresh uses for commodities with declining markets.

On the other hand, the industrialized countries see the Common Fund as a kind of banking facility to assist autonomous and separately financed international commodity organizations. They would deposit their money with the Common Fund in return for a guarantee that they could draw in excess of their deposits when the need arose. Little scope is seen by the industrialized nations for a "second window".

Either version of the Common Fund could theoretically stabilize prices for those commodities that can be stored, if sufficient finance were made available. But precisely who would gain from such activities depends critically on the source of price instability.

As Mr Barrie Brook and Mr Enzo Gelli showed in a recent World Bank staff working paper, price stabilization works in the total earnings and welfare of commodity exporting countries if the cause of price instability is shifts in demand. But revenue and welfare of such exporters will be increased by price stabilization if

the cause of instability was shifts in supply.

Their analysis showed, however, that stable prices are more conducive to global welfare than unstable prices. Price stabilization provides a net gain to producers and consumers together—that is, gainers can compensate losers and total net gains are always positive.

The empirical investigation by the two authors of the study suggested that, of 17 commodities examined, the Third World exporters would definitely benefit from price stabilization for only two agricultural commodities—coffee and cocoa. They could possibly benefit from price stabilization for three other commodities—cotton, jute and sugar.

All five commodities are, in fact, included in the list of 10 "core" commodities for which the developing countries have been seeking agreement on price stabilization. Moreover, for all five commodities the value of developing countries' exports account for more than 70 per cent of the total world trade in these items (for cotton, this is the case for fibre, but not yarn).

But a number of much wider arguments have been advanced in favour of price stabilization than a simple calculation of Third World export revenues. As summarized in a recent report from the Commodities Research Unit, these include a possible moderation in the rate of inflation, at least if it is assumed that a reduction in the rate of commodity price increases in a boom will lessen the pressure of cost-push inflation in the long run.

Some calculations suggest

that the gains to real world output from lower inflation would alone be several times greater than the likely losses that might be associated with the Common Fund.

It is further argued that the world would benefit from the anti-cyclical operations of the Common Fund, which would tend to inject demand into the system at times of economic depression. Also, it is contended that price stabilization would yield gains in the form of greater production efficiency as well as providing gains from a reduction in the degree of uncertainty that Third World producers face.

Yet, all this leaves open the key question of whether the very poorest of the earth's nations would gain or lose from price stabilization.

This again depends crucially on which commodities are stabilized. According to Commonwealth Secretariat estimates, the developed nations and oil states import more than their export of the 10 "core" commodities under consideration. For most categories of developing country the position is reversed.

For the two dozen least developed countries, these 10 commodities account for only 6 per cent of their imports and 4.3 per cent of their exports. Those that have least to gain would appear to be the fast-growing Third World exporters of manufactures.

But, in the end, the economic of the Common Fund can probably only be satisfactorily tested in the market place.

Melvyn Westlake

Importance of the 10 "core" commodities in the total trade of rich and poor countries, by income category (Average 1970-75)

	Imports 10 "core" commodities \$m	As % of total imports	Exports 10 "core" commodities \$m	As % of total exports
Developed countries—total	17,913	4.4	4,787	1.2
Developing countries—total	2,873	3.0	17,521	16.2
(a) oil exporters	665	2.8	1,404	2.7
(b) fast-growing exporters of mfrs.	585	2.9	424	3.2
(c) other states with income per head over \$400	767	2.5	8,277	37.0
(d) countries with income of \$200-\$400 per head	413	3.5	3,158	34.3
(e) countries with income below \$200 per head	328	4.1	2,124	34.7
(f) least developed countries	245	5.0	1,134	44.3
Total	20,886	4.1	22,258	4.5

* Excluding centrally planned economies. Source: Commonwealth Secretariat.

Sainsbury's further progress

Interim Results

for the 28 weeks to September 17th 1977

	Interim Results 1977 £000	1976 £000	Full Year 1976/77 £000
Turnover — includes VAT £5.855m (1976 £5.258m)	406,180	328,194	663,776
Profit before Taxation			
Retailing — net margin 3.0% (1976 3.2%)	12,121	10,348	25,303
Associated Companies — Share of Profit	338	352	879
	12,459	10,700	26,182
Taxation at 52% (1976 52%)	6,479	5,564	13,687
Profit after Taxation	5,980	5,136	12,495

Salient Points

- The increase in turnover of 24.5% represents a further significant gain in the Company's volume of sales and was achieved in a period when volume through grocery outlets nationally was down by approximately 4%.
- Our market share of total sales through grocery outlets (based on Department of Industry published figures) increased from 7.3% in the previous year's first half to 7.9%. We continued to show market share increases in the second quarter against the corresponding period last year despite an unofficial industrial dispute which affected trade and profits materially during June, and major new competitive developments at that time.
- While it is gratifying in these circumstances to report a profit increase of 16.4% in the first half, currently the continuing decline in consumer purchasing power means that we do not anticipate a repetition of the unexpectedly buoyant turnover which we enjoyed in the second half of last year. It is also likely that in the current competitive climate margins will be under some pressure.
- Four new supermarkets opened during the period and three more will open in the second half. The major "new store" event will be the opening of the first Sainsbury hypermarket by the company jointly owned with British Home Stores, at Washington, County Durham on November 15th.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.0328p per share (1976 1.82p per share) which, together with its associated tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 3.08p per share. As a result of the reduction of the rate of advance corporation tax an additional payment of 0.0549p per share will be made in respect of the balance of the final dividend for the financial year to March 5th 1977, declared at the Annual General Meeting on July 6th 1977. These dividends will be paid on January 27th 1978, to shareholders whose names appear on the Register of Members on December 30th 1977, other than to certain Directors and members of their families from whom notice of waiver of dividend has been received.

J SAINSBURY

Business Diary: Foreign legion • Welcome to Moscow

Which would you say was the most profitable foreign-owned company operating in this country? Esso? Ford? IBM? If you said any of these, you would be wrong, wrong, wrong.

The answer, according to Roger Coghill, who helped compile the latest publication from Jordan Dataquest, a survey of foreign-owned companies in Britain, is Tampax, the American-owned maker of menstrual tampons.

Pre-tax profits in 1975, Coghill reports, were 22.34 per cent of sales, good enough by any measure—except Tampax's, in that this marked a fall from the 1974 figure of 49.48 per cent.

The top 20 of Jordan's survey of 1,000 foreign-owned companies, a new publication that may become an annual event, shows that they export 16.2 per cent of turnover, more than twice as much as British public and three times as much as British private companies.

These top 20 may far better than United Kingdom companies, an average of £3,177, against £2,609 for British quoted, and £2,202 for British private concerns. But far from milking the British economy, as Coghill puts it, foreign firms, according to their accounts, are substantially less profitable than British companies. The average margin is 3.55 per cent, compared with 7.47 per cent in United Kingdom public and 4.79 per cent in United Kingdom private firms.

We say "according to their accounts" because some profits are made on sales from the parent company to subsidiaries which do not appear in the British accounts.

Coghill says that the scale of foreign activity in Britain is underestimated, not least by its measurement of money supply (M3) takes in only 300 foreign companies, omitting many millions of pounds in sales and currency movements. Britain's Top 1,000 Foreign-Owned companies, 1976, Jordan Dataquest, £12. Available only from the publishers at Jordan House, Broadwick Place, London N1 6EE.

John Marshalko is in London this week to talk to the travel trade and to launch his new guidebook, *Moscow for the Business Traveller*.

Marshalko is American Express's man in the Russian capital and the only full-blown foreign travel agent permitted to co-operate with what he calls the "monopresent monopoly".



American Express's John Marshalko: tips to and from the traveller in the USSR.

of the state tourist organisation Intourist. He has been in Moscow two and a half years, but his company has been there since 1958, having got a foot in the door at the time of a cultural agreement between the United States and the U.S.S.R. under which the Russians wanted an Intourist office in Washington badly enough to let American Express into Moscow.

Marshalko—an American citizen born in Hungary—told Business Diary's Ross Davies that there was an "enormous" shortage of international class hotel bedrooms in the Russian capital.

Night after night, he said, visiting businessmen found themselves without a room, though night after night 15 per cent of Moscow rooms might also be empty. The fault was as much the inefficient distribution system as room shortage.

It takes at least one and a half hours to be served lunch and as much as two and a half for dinner, he said. The most popular lunch venue for exporters was now the self-service restaurant at where else?—the Intourist hotel.

Marshalko's guide makes it clear that at least one capitalist custom has travelled well—c tipping "Bell boys, waiters, floor and wardrobe attendants and paid drivers", he writes, "expect and accept tips in cash".

Much of the success that Leyland's controversial new Mini will, or will not, have in the hands of 38-year-old mother of two. As marketing manager (small cars), Mrs

Lindsay Campbell has the job of selling a car which some say will be the best of the competition when it appears late in 1979. Mrs Campbell, an applied chemistry graduate of Glasgow University, has the right disciplines of science for what she describes as "the flair of marketing". After spells with Unilever and Bechco she became convenience foods producer for Cadbury Schweppes, where she helped to launch Smash, the instant mashed potato, as well as Marvel dried milk and then drinking chocolate.

Mrs Campbell joined Leyland Cars in March, but is still little known outside the Redditch headquarters of the sales and marketing division.

Business Diary asked to be told a little about her plans for the new Mini. "I think you will have to wait and see", she said. "Although we are already working on it, a lot can happen between now and the launch date, which could change our approach."

But she was quick to point out that as a woman she had an advantage: "Fifty per cent of the main drivers of Minis are women. They also account for 41 per cent of the small car sector as a whole and 20 per cent of the total car market."

They also play a significant role in influencing the choice of larger cars bought by their husbands.

Her own husband, Tony, is an electrical engineer with a Birmingham security company. They have a seven-year-old son and a five-year-old daughter who are taken to school in, what else?, the family Mini.

One of the two remaining members of the Heinz family who will be the head of the company that bears their name (there never were 57) has received a rare distinction—he has been created an honorary KBE. The University of Hull conferred the honour on Henry J. Heinz II, chairman of the parent company in America and of its British arm, but been given the honour in Washington.

It is awarded to foreigners distinguished by their contributions to British life and Heinz was invested with it by Peter Jay, the British Ambassador. Mr Heinz, who is 69, is the grandson of Henry J. Heinz I, the company's founder.

The younger Henry was marked down for a career in the company as an early age and was sent to Britain by his grandfather more than 50 years ago. He spent three years in the company's factory at Harrogate in North London and then worked as a salesman in this country before doing postgraduate studies at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the 1930s.

He was created an honorary KBE although, as he is an American citizen, he will not be styling himself "Sir"—for making a "significant contribution to the furtherance of British-American relations". That bold phrase conceals a host of distinctions by Heinz to British museums and art galleries.

"How" a Northern Ireland secretariat executive was chuffed at a London dinner the other night, "are you making a profit now that none of your stores is being blown up?"

FINANCIAL NEWS

EMI chief says that US decline only a moment of market pause

By Desmond Quigley
EMI's world medical electronics business is unlikely to show a greater volume in the current financial year than in 1976-77, Sir John Read, chairman, says in his statement in the latest annual report.

The main problem is the decline in business in North America, the most important market, without a sufficiently strong growth in other markets to compensate.

Sir John comments that this is a moment of market pause, allowing for essential consolidation, before an upturn in North America takes place together with continuing growth in other international markets.

The group holds half the world market for brain and body scanners (computerized tomography scanners) and cumulative orders have exceeded 850. Some 700 have already been delivered, with North America taking over 400 systems.

However, last year the United States Government stepped up measures to regulate expenditure on capital equipment by



Sir John Read, chairman.

medical institutions, the chairman writes, thus leading to a marked decline in the rate of new orders being placed for scanners.

Elsewhere, which is concentrating heavily on expanding its medical electronics side, has a medical research and development programme running at an annual rate of £12m.

On the current year's trading prospects, the chairman considers that with the world economic tempo far from buoyant, EMI's performance is bound to continue to be affected. Last year the group increased pre-tax profits to £64.7m from £59.4m.

The balance sheet deteriorated during the year with the level of borrowings to shareholders' funds rising from 60 per cent to 91 per cent. This reflected a sharp increase in loans and borrowings, and in goodwill.

The debt/equity ratio would have exceeded 1:1 but for the acquisition of Development Securities, an investment company, which injected £24.1m in cash into the group.

Last year the proportionate profits contributions from the various divisions of EMI were little changed on the previous year with music contributing to some 43 per cent, while electronics, radio and television equipment slipped back 4 per cent to 36 per cent.

Second half likely to be poor at Readicut

In the current climate of uncertainty the board of Readicut does not expect the second half to match last year's although a satisfactory result for the full year is still expected. Last year the rugmats, kilns, knifings wool and floor coverings group reported a 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record £7.22m. This compares with £5.5m for the previous year.

For the six months to September 30, the group shows a slight rise in pre-tax profits from £2.1m to £2.4m while turnover has leapt from £36m to £42m with external sales accounting for £32m against £28m.

Of the divisions within the group retail, readies, yarns and other interests all performed satisfactorily, producing greater profits than last year. A significantly higher contribution was made by other interests reflecting the continuing turnaround at Plasidors.

The carpets and overseas divisions however both earned less.

The process of slow economic recovery in the United Kingdom continues in an atmosphere of financial buoyancy, while the underlying outlook for the economy remains far from secure with unrest in many industries. Troubles in the motor industry have already held back the group's sales to that market for the six months under review.

Staveley gets more from less but dealers are disappointed

By Bryan Appleyard

Staveley Industries has once again managed to squeeze higher profits out of lower volumes, but its results for the year to October 1 were below most market hopes.

Pre-tax profits were £9.1m against £8.8m the year before on turnover up from £103.8m to £120.2m. Staveley is in the process of changing its year end to April 1 so the results are still classed as interims.

The group acquired George Saker for £4.1m in January so stripping out its £10m turnover contribution leaves an increase in sales for the parent company of just 6 per cent. This indicates a substantial volume fall.

Dr Adolf Frankel, managing director, holds out little hope of any pickup in volume over the next six months. But he believes that higher profits can still be made from existing resources through greater efficiency.

Continuing investment, now running at about £7m annually, means high capacity modern plant that in some cases is less than 50 per cent in use.

Market conditions generally were worse than expected and the lime division traded at a loss. British Salt, however, improved substantially, and foundries and abrasives continued to grow, though more slowly than planned. Electrical and mechanical services held their

own but conditions in North America continue to be "very difficult."

Financially no substantial increase in gearing is expected to finance working capital and investment.

Looking further ahead Dr Frankel said that he was pessimistic about the world economy. But he still expected Staveley to be able to make "quite a respectable growth of profits".

The shares fell 6p to 235p yesterday. The price earnings ratio is 8 and the gross yield 5.4 per cent on the basis of the two interim dividends totalling 12.8p. The board forecast total dividends of 19.8p for the eighteen months.

W. Lawrence stays at home

Some construction groups have tried to keep going during the building slump in the United Kingdom by seeking building work overseas the directors of W. Lawrence say the risks are high.

Mr R. J. Pritchard, chairman, says in his annual statement, that the group is fortunate in having a management whose knowledge and experience is not confined to the construction industry. The group hopes that during periods of recession it will be possible to take early advantage of an upswing in the economy when it occurs.

The past two years have not been easy.

Interim loss at Futura, but recovery expected

An expensive reorganization at Futura Holdings, the

Cheshire-based footwear manufacturer and distributor, has pushed the group into losses. Turnover rose a quarter to £1.87m, but a pre-tax profit of £40,000 gave way to a loss of £22,000 in the 27 weeks to July 9. However, shareholders still benefit on an interim dividend of 1.6p gross.

Development and organization of the leisure footwear production sections has been costly. However, other sections did better and with the expected benefits from the leisure footwear sections, im-

proved results are expected for the rest of the year.

Provided there is no further Government legislation aimed at industry, the board says, and wage claims and other costs can be held within the Whitehall guidelines, a further rise in turnover is likely. But pre-tax profits may fall a bit from 1976's £177,000 on a turnover of £4.13m.

For the half-year, there was a group loss of £11,000, after a tax adjustment of £12,000. This compares with a profit last year of £19,000, after a tax charge of £21,000. Earnings per share are given as nil, against 2.3p last year.

R. Westgarth still in dark about state payout

By Alison Mitchell

A better performance by the manufacturing and services subsidiaries of Tyneside engineering group Richardson's, Westgarth propelled pre-tax profits from £558,000 to £975,000 in the first six months of this year. Turnover slipped from £20.3m to £19.4m.

Stripping out the previous figures from marine engine building offshoot George Clark & NEAL, vested in British Shipbuilders on July 1, profits show a 52 per cent rise, on turnover up from £15m.

In the period under review the contribution from this company has been restricted to a £178,000 dividend, under the provisions of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act.

Mr Archibald Boyd, chairman, reports that, as yet, there has been no indication from the Government of the amount of compensation.

The directors are forecasting second half profits at a similar level to the first six months, which could see the group nudging the £2m pre-tax for the year. Results, then, will reflect both the departure of George Clark & NEAL and the difficult trading conditions affecting shiprepairing and steel stockholding.

Earlier this week another North East group, Swan Hunter, announced its plans for post-shipbuilding nationalization reconstruction.

J. Crowther races out of the red

After two years of losses, the Huddersfield-based John Crowther Group is turning the corner. In the first half of this year, it more than doubled its trading profit from £72,000 to £191,000. Turnover went up from £2.19m to £2.75m.

Although depreciation and bank interest were heavier, Crowther produced a pre-tax profit of £24,000, against a loss last time of £64,000. While saying that the turnaround has been gratifying, the board reports that current conditions have been influenced by the mild autumn.

The group makes clothes from wool and synthetic fibres, and applies processed synthetic fibres to the manufacture of Diversification, particularly into products the group has not previously developed, is encouraging.

Percy Lane set to top £1m for the first time

It looks as if Percy Lane, the master of aluminium windows for caravans and disposal chutes systems, should top the million pound mark for the first time. This implies a rise in pre-tax profits of 15 to 20 per cent in the year to December 31. This is better than seemed likely at one time. There was a warning earlier this year from Mr Peter Lane, chairman, on the outlook for the remainder of the year about overstocking of caravans in both the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

He feared a reduction in demand.

At present the group is launching a range of acrylic caravan windows which fully meets the proposed United Kingdom requirements in safety glazing for caravans and is being introduced to the caravan industry at the Caravan Camping Holiday Show.

Formed from cast and extruded acrylic sheet the range

has been developed for the British market by the group's Luxembourg subsidiary Para Press, acknowledged as Europe's leading maker of acrylic caravan windows.

Para Press has been making acrylic caravan windows to the exacting demands of continental caravan makers since 1973 and earlier this year completed a £600,000 expansion programme at its factory in Bertrange to handle the additional capacity of the new acrylic range.

The group also plans to unveil a new insect proof louvered ventillator panel developed in this country at its Hardall subsidiary in Luton for use mainly in the Middle East.

At present the group is concerned with the rise in value of sterling. Last year its Luxembourg subsidiary contributed 80 per cent to group profits.

Blue Bell jeans wrangle to go on

Blue Bell, the manufacturer of Wrangler jeans, has issued a statement regarding its law suit with Levi Strauss in America. It states:

A Federal District Judge ruled in November 3 that Blue Bell's proposed use of a free floating label on the right rear patch pocket of jeans, would infringe Levi Strauss and the company's trade mark rights.

This ruling has had no adverse effect on Blue Bell's sales, profits or financial position because no garments bearing the particular free floating label have ever been sold or manufactured for sale by Blue Bell.

It is emphasized that this ruling relates to the United States only and has no effect on any existing or planned production by Wrangler outside America. In no way does this affect the denim patch or the Wrangler trade mark which has been and will continue to be a trademark of quality Blue Bell jeans.

The suit by Levi Strauss was started more than seven years ago. It alleged that Blue Bell violated their rights by using a free-floating label on an inset pocket of jeans.

Blue Bell has been vindicated in its position that a free-floating label showing its trade mark on a rear inset pocket is not an infringement of any rights of Levi Strauss.

However, the court ruled that Levi Strauss does have trade mark rights in a free-floating label, limited to the right rear patch pocket. Blue Bell will disagree with this portion of the decision and will be appealing.

Autopista-Kuwait bond

A 5m Kuwaiti dinar (about £2.5m) 10-year bond issue of Autopista Vasco-Aragonesa, a concessionaire in Spain, has been priced at par bearing 8.75 per cent annually, the syndicate manager, Kuwait Investment Co. says. Guaranteed by the Spanish Government, the

International

notes give the holder an option of either redeeming at par in 1983 or keeping the notes until maturity. The offer was co-managed by Merrill Lynch International.

Carter Hawley deal

Carter Hawley Hale Stores, of Los Angeles, says it has completed the previously announced sale of its 19.4 per cent interest in House of Fraser to Lomax of London for about \$78.8m (about £46.3m). The original proposed sale price, announced in September, was \$76m. But Carter Hawley said the value of the transaction increased because the pound had risen in price since then. The company sold its interest in the House of Fraser for \$74.4m. One third of this amount has been paid in cash and the balance will be paid in three instalments over an 18-month period.

Ensign gets new bid

Ensign Holdings of Australia says it has recommended acceptance by shareholders of an increased offer of \$A1.50 per Ensign share from Bradmill Industries and will accept in respect of all shares held or controlled by the board. A joint statement by Ensign and Bradmill says that Bradmill proposed to increase its bid from its previous offer of \$A1.25 per share conditional upon acceptance by shareholders holding at least 90 per cent of Ensign's issued shares.

Carborundum offer

Eaton Corporation of Cleveland says it plans to make an offer to purchase any and all outstanding common shares of Carborundum Company for \$47 a share. Eaton said that because of state regulations regarding tender offers, a waiting period

will be required before it actually makes the offer for Carborundum common shares.

GEC in Mexican bid

An Anglo-French consortium led by General Electric has made outline presentations in a tender for the first stage of a new suburban railway system for Mexico City, a GEC spokesman says. The French partners are Franco-Beige de Materiel de Chemin de Fer and Societe ANF-Industrie. GEC will undertake transformer, signalling, telecommunications and switchgear work. The French companies would provide the rolling stock. The contract is worth about £450m.

Associated Securities

Associated Securities of Australia says it will issue four million 9.5 per cent cumulative redeemable preference shares to its major shareholder, Ansett Transport Industries, and not to all shareholders as originally intended. Listing of the shares will not, therefore, be sought, it said in a letter to the Sydney Stock Exchange. It gave no further details. Ansett holds 48.44 per cent of ASIL's issued ordinary share capital.

Toyota-Nissan charge

A Japanese consumer group has alleged that about 600,000 Toyota motor cars and about 400,000 Nissan models had defects and called on the Transport Ministry to take action to have the firms recall them. The charge was made by the Japan Automobile Users' Union. According to the union, the 600,000 defective Toyota vehicles included Corona Mark II and Carina cars mounted with 1800 (2,000 cc) and 1600 (1,800 cc) engines that meet the 1975 emission control requirements.

The group claimed that these cars had defective exhaust gas cleaning equipment and were therefore a fire hazard. Toyota has denied that its cars were defective.

Aeroservices offshoot sold by Winn

Another sale has been made by Winn Industries, which sold its international container business for £625,000 earlier this year. Now it has sold its Aero services Engineering offshoot to Cromwell.

The price was £410,000, payable as to £19,000 cash on completion, £5,000 cash on December 31 and the balance in 12 equal monthly instalments, starting on January 31. The deferred sum attracts interest at the rate of 21 per cent above Barclays' base rate. At completion, £60,000 due to be repaid had been repaid by Winn.

In 1976 Aeroservices made a profit of £10,000, but in the first six months of this year suffered a loss of £16,000.

Winn covers engineering, building and property.

ALFRED PLANT

Board is reconstructing group's assets to give the group trustee

MARTONAIR INT

Jump in pre-tax profits for year to July 31 from £2.13m to £2.4m compared with forecast of at least £2.5m made in May.

Briefly

RIGHTWISE-DEUNDI
Board of Deundi advises shareholders to reject Rightwise offer, proposes to raise dividend from 3.25p to 10p net.

NORSK HYDRO
Group issuing 550m of 5-year notes with annual coupon of 7 1/2 per cent at price of 99 1/2 per cent.

COUNTNEY POPE
Chairman says a further significant advance will be achieved in current year.

JENTIQUE (HOLDINGS)
Chairman's annual report says that trading conditions are still difficult, particularly in furniture division, but there are definite signs of an improvement.

ELLENROAD RING MILL
Board says future remains uncertain. After adding a temporary employment subsidy from Government of £27,000, pre-tax profit is £23,500 for half year to October 31 against £64,000.

CATER RYDER
Board says group made a "substantial" profit for six months to end-October.

BABCOCK & WILCOX
For \$A2.5m, group has bought C & I Industries of Sydney as part of a five-year development programme in Australia.

HIGHGATE & JOE
Interim profits rose from £87,000 to £103,000 but second half not expected to match these. Delay of large cargo of sperm oil makes forecasting unrealistic.

GALLIFORD BRINDLEY
Trading in first few months confirms that group can look for continued success.

ZETTERS GROUP
Mr Paul Zetter, chairman, told annual meeting that season is going well and turnover is up to expectations.

PYRAMID (PUBLISHERS)
Board says trading is satisfactory and should show an improvement over record result of last year.

MOUNTVIEW ESTATES
Board says profits running at about same level as last year so results for current year should be "no less favourable" for full year.

CLIVE INVESTMENTS
Group has formed a new co. in Jersey, to provide specialist fixed interest fund management in sterling securities for either Channel Islands or other non-United Kingdom resident investors.

TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES
Mr Neil Westbrook, chairman, told the annual meeting that profits for 1978 will be more than the record level of £804,000 achieved in past year.

'The world scene is far from buoyant...this is bound to continue to affect performance in the current trading year...but the long-term outlook for EMI is one of sustained growth and higher profitability'

John Read

Sir John Read, Chairman of the EMI Group

Further extracts from the Report and Accounts and Chairman's Review for the year ended 30 June 1977 published today:

Group sales worldwide increased by over 26 per cent to £651 million. UK exports rose by 67 per cent.

In a challenging year pre-tax profits rose by 9 per cent to £64.7 million and attributable profits by 15 per cent to £28.1 million.

International music profits increased by 20 per cent but did not maintain their earnings rate in the second half of the year.

International electronics profits were higher but were affected by sharp second-half deterioration in consumer electronics in

Australia. Medical electronics operations maintained progress.

Leisure businesses, with reduced consumer spending in the UK market, experienced varied results. Total profit increased, with Hotels and Restaurants achieving significant uplift.

Thames Television had its best year ever.

EMI The international music, electronics and leisure group. Operating in more than 30 countries worldwide. Over 63,000 stockholders and 51,000 employees. Head office: 20 Manchester Square, London W1.



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



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Secretary-Finance

will provide a full secretarial service to the Controller and members of his group. The successful candidate will be given the responsibility of supervising 2/3 secretaries within the department and co-ordinating typing and reprographic work. 4 weeks' annual holiday, non-contributory pension scheme, lunch vouchers, interest free season ticket loan. Salaries will be reviewed in March, 1978.

Please write or telephone Mrs. Lucy (01-588 2355 ext. 8123), The Council of the Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.



The Stock Exchange

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E.C.3

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— John 3: 16-17.

DEATHS

ARMOUR, DENNIS VICTOR—On

the 9th November, 1977, aged

64, at his home, 10, St. John's

Place, London, N.W.1, after a

long illness, DENNIS VICTOR

ARMOUR, the son of Mr. and

Mrs. J. H. ARMOUR, of 10, St.

John's Place, London, N.W.1.

Funeral service on Monday,

November 14th, at 11.15 a.m.,

St. John's Church, St. John's

Place, London, N.W.1.

Interment in the family

grave, St. John's Church.

Private condolences may

be sent to the family at

10, St. John's Place, London,

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COKE, JOHN—On November 9, 1977, peacefully, after a short illness, JOHN COKE, aged 79, of 10, St. John's Place, London, N.W.1, after a long illness, JOHN COKE, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. COKE, of 10, St. John's Place, London, N.W.1.

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